



Martial arts ace shop manager prevents robbery

KARATE EXPERT FOILS RAIDERS

By David Cosgrove

AXE-WIELDING robbers who tried to smash through a shop window were foiled by the store's manager – a martial arts expert.

Cashbrokers in Halesowen was targeted by the two would-be thieves, one of whom was armed with the weapon.

Have-a-go-hero Henry Hunter, aged 55, was serving a customer when he noticed the attempted heist, screamed at the balaclava-clad pair and ran out to confront them.

They got away in a dark blue BMW before Mr Hunter could reach them.

Mr Hunter says 'the toerags' were lucky he didn't get his hands on them.

The father of five is a black belt in karate, judo and kendo, and a grandmaster in aikido. He trained with Budo of Great Britain at its base in Stirchley, Birmingham through the 1980s and 90s and has also trained firefighters and police officers in self-defence.

He said: "At the end of the day him having an axe didn't worry me. If I could've got out there in time I would've taken my chance – that doesn't bother me. I know I would've hit him first before he could've hit me."

The two men pulled up outside the pawnbrokers in Queensway at around 10.30am on Tuesday.

Weapon

Another staff member was replenishing the stock in the window when one of the would-be robbers ran up to the glass and struck it six or seven times.

The bullet-proof windows managed to withstand the force of the weapon.

Mr Hunter's attempts to confront the pair were slowed down by the security doors fitted at the shop. Just as he got through the second safety door the pair fled, dropping the axe on the pavement in the process.

"I screamed at them and ran around to the other side to get out through the security doors," said Mr Hunter, who lives in Bromsgrove.

"By the time I had got through the doors they had dropped the axe and got into the car.

"Then they sped off towards the bus station." Although the shop window managed to repel the robbers, they inflicted £1,500 worth of damage.

Mr Hunter described the pair as being clad head to toe in dark clothing, and said they were in a dark or royal blue BMW 5-Series.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said they were trying to trace the car involved.

Anyone with information is asked to call 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



The moment the axe-wielding thug tries to smash his way through the premises – in broad daylight



The axe was left behind as the offenders fled



We're still open, customers told



Have-a-go hero manager Henry Hunter

TRIBUTES

Crippling disease takes father's life

A GRANDFATHER struck down with Motor Neurone Disease has died – just seven months since diagnosing himself after watching the Stephen Hawking biopic.

Paul Whyley, aged 62 began to realise he had the same debilitating condition as Professor Hawking when he watched the Oscar-winning The Theory of Everything.

Jayne, the grandfather of four's devastated wife of 40 years, was forced to leave her job to care for her husband, and paid tribute. He died on October 17. His funeral

service was taking place yesterday (Wednesday) at Stourbridge Crematorium.

Mrs Whyley, 59, of Hagley, said she had been astonished by the outpouring of support from friends and family after her husband's passing. She said: "Paul was amazing throughout the whole process, he never ever complained. He just took it in his stride."

Before his diagnosis in March, Mr Whyley had noticed difficulty controlling his fingers, problems moving his arm and had suffered a number of trips and falls. Doctors failed to come up with a diagnosis. However, when he saw the film about Hawking's life, he began to realise he had the same symptoms and tests with a neurologist confirmed Mr Whyley's fears.

The father of two died with his wife and daughter Lauren at his bedside. His eldest daughter Heather, 36, flew back from Colombia the day after her father's death.

PETITION

Chance to question council over cuts

AN online petition has been launched opposing plans to close Dudley Museum and Art Gallery under cost-cutting measures.

The petition, already signed by more than 700 people, has been launched at website 38 Degrees.

Cuts include closing Dudley Museum and Art Gallery and cutting opening hours at libraries, with jobs set to be lost.

The public can quiz council leader Pete Lowe about proposals tonight (Thursday) from 6-7pm via a special online forum.

● Axe – Page 3

INSIDE:

TRUST SHEDS ITS OLD CENTRE



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Civic society bid to boost town pride

A NEW civic society could be set up in Dudley in a bid to promote and protect its heritage.

Steve Briscoe has revealed plans to create a Civic Society for Dudley with hopes of bringing the community together to discuss ideas for regeneration.

Speaking about the plans, he explained how he wants to portray Dudley in a positive light. He said: "Dudley does not get enough recognition and it would be great if we could get all businesses and main attractions working together to form a group and promote all the great things about the town. We do not want this to be a political entity and we want no negativity."

"We want to gather ideas of what people want to see happen in the town. So far I have had interest from a few people, including a businessman and Councillor Pete Lowe, who thinks this would be a really good idea."

Plans of holding workshops and events in the town are also in the pipeline.

Mr Briscoe, who is also chairman of the Friends of Buffery Park, spoke of how he felt passionate about giving the town a voice.

"A town like Dudley with all its rich history leaves us with the question as to why it hasn't had a civic society for a long time," he said.

"Lots of local people are proud of the town and

we want to get people together to celebrate what's good about it. Ultimately, the aim is to provide an independent voice for our town and its people."

Dudley town centre has been the focus of major regeneration over the past few years.

The £10 million Castle Hill project, using European funding, was hailed as the start of a new era with the zoo, Black Council Living Museum and Dudley Canal and Tunnel envisaged as a major national tourist attraction.

A £6.7m Dudley Market revamp also saw traders move into new stalls this year.

For more information on the proposed civic society visit dudleycivicsociety.com

Saudi cash will fund college's development

DUDLEY College will help create three new colleges in Saudi Arabia after securing a lucrative multi-million pound contract with the Middle Eastern kingdom.

It has won a three-year deal to mentor Saudi staff, creating three colleges in the country.

Teams of between 10 and 15 staff from the college will be based in Saudi Arabia at the new institutions over the initial three year period. Staff will work alongside Saudi teachers in improving the performance of the new colleges, including best practice on teaching and the curriculum, English language skills and leadership training.

Dudley College principal Lowell Williams said: "The college has been successful in being awarded three capacity and capability building contracts in Saudi Arabia, two male colleges and one female, where our staff will work alongside the Saudi college staff to improve their capacity."

"The total value of these contracts is £18 million over three years. Income from these projects will support the ongoing capital development of the college in Dudley."

Opportunity

"We see this as an exciting opportunity for both Dudley and education in Saudi Arabia, as this supports the country's vocational training reforms."

The news comes alongside growing concern about Saudi Arabia's record on human rights after it emerged Karl Andree, a 74-year-old UK citizen, has been sentenced in the country to 350 lashes for possession of alcohol.

Earlier this month Prime Minister David Cameron scrapped a £6m deal for the British Ministry of Justice to train Saudi Arabian prison staff amid criticism of the kingdom's human rights record. According to Amnesty International, Saudi Arabia executed 102 people in the first six months of this year.

Mr Williams added that while aware of those issues, the college could not comment on individual cases. He said: "In agreeing to take assignments in Saudi Arabia, Dudley College Worldwide consulted closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and UK Trade and Investment."

Centre opens doors for learners



Head of Stourbridge College Wendy Stevens in the new IT Suite

A £615,000 independent living centre has opened its doors to students at Stourbridge College.

It has been built to support students with a disability or special educational needs.

Based at the college's art and design centre in Brierley Hill, it includes a living unit with kitchen, dining and bedroom areas.

Bosses say this will enable students to gain a range of skills in-

cluding budgeting, planning menus for a healthy lifestyle and carrying out home maintenance.

The new centre was opened by Dudley Council's chief executive Sarah Norman.

Confidence

She said: "We are delighted to support this unit, which we know will encourage learners to develop greater confidence in themselves

and their abilities. The learners deserve to be in the best possible environment for success and they are sure to thrive in these exceptional surroundings."

Wendy Stevens, head of Stourbridge College, said: "The centre provides a safe environment for our students to develop their skills, while allowing them to work alongside fellow learners in an atmosphere of tolerance and trust."

Restaurants to come at Castlegate leisure park

WORK on a £5 million project to build four new restaurants and cafes in Dudley will start next month, the developer has announced.

Around 80 jobs will be created by the scheme which will see a Hungry Horse pub, a Costa Coffee cafe and a KFC restaurant built on vacant land at Dudley's Castlegate Business Park, off Birmingham Road.

A fourth unit will also be constructed on the site, owned by the Homes and Communities Agency, with bosses at developer Stoford hoping to attract another restaurant to the complex.

Stoford director Dominic Stokes said: "This is an exciting project which supports the development of Castle Hill and Dudley town centre by providing complementary visitor facilities."

"We expect work to begin on site in November and the businesses could be trading by summer 2016."

Regeneration

Dudley Council leaders have welcomed the plans as a boost to the ongoing regeneration of Dudley.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "This scheme provides job opportunities for local people while complementing the exciting and innovative developments we have already put in place or are in the pipeline in Dudley town centre, including the multi-million pound investment in the market place and the expansion of Dudley College."

"Our ambition is to make Castle Hill a major regional destination."

MP set for talks on Caparo crisis

A BLACK Country MP is to meet with the Business Secretary for talks about the steel industry crisis.

James Morris, Conservative MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, was among politicians, business and union leaders who met at Birmingham City University as part of a taskforce. He will now talk with Sajid Javid directly.

Some 1,700 jobs are under threat in the Black Country after Caparo Industries entered administration. Mr Morris said it was important an action group was established to try to save Caparo.

Caparo Industries, part of the wider Caparo group owned by Lord Paul of Marylebone - Chancellor of the University of Wolverhampton - is the biggest manufacturing business in the Black Country.

Task group set up as refugees arrive

A TASK group has been launched in Dudley ahead of the borough welcoming 20 refugee families fleeing Syria.

The group will be led by the Dudley Council for Voluntary Service. It will co-ordinate voluntary sector provision for the new arrivals.

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Academies paying for patrols 'will save money'

ACADEMY schools have enough money to pay for their own lollipop men and women, Dudley Council's finance boss said after the proposal was put forward as part of multi-million cuts.

The cash-strapped council no longer wants to foot the bill for school crossing patrols at academy schools, which it has no influence over.

Academies are independent of council control and receive funding directly from the Department of Education.

Council bosses say savings must be found to stop the Labour-run authority from going bankrupt, blaming the Government for reducing its grant.

Finance member Councillor David Sparks said making academies pay for their own school crossing patrols was another area where cash could be saved. The changes are due to come into force from next April.

But he suggested academies would not be forced into the move. "This is not us saying 'we don't agree with academies so we are going to charge them for crossing patrols'," he said.

"They get an amount of money to fund things like crossing patrols."

Dudley councillor Ken Finch believes paying for lollipop ladies would not be much of a stretch for most academy schools.

The Labour councillor said: "Academy schools, as someone who was on a seat of governors for many years, have got finances. They will probably be able to afford it."

"As long as we have got traffic patrols, that is the main thing. We have got to consider the safety of pupils."

Bid to save club suffers setback

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to save the old Halesowen Members Club have been dealt a blow after planning bosses raised no objections to proposals to knock it down and build a Lidl supermarket.

The council's senior planning policy officer David Piper said the demolition of the building was unlikely to have an adverse effect on the area.

He added the building has been identified as making a 'negative contribution' to the quality of the town's historic built environment.

It comes as a blow to campaigners trying to save the Hagley Road venue, formerly the Halesowen Labour Club.

Around 80 people have signed a petition and objections from residents nearby have also been lodged.

Arsonists caused church hall fire

FIRE chiefs have confirmed a blaze that destroyed a church hall in Rowley Regis was started deliberately.

Three crews attended the building next to Knowle Methodist Church, Dudley Road at 2.45pm last Friday.

Eyesore block fetches £800k at auction



Cavendish House – £800,000 sale

AN eyesore office block which has blighted the Dudley skyline for years has been sold for £800,000 after going under the hammer at auction.

Dudley Council has said talks are already under way with the new owners of dilapidated Cavendish House. Officials said proposals were now expected to take a 'huge step forward'.

The identity of the buyer has not been confirmed with officials from London auctioneers Allsop, which carried out the sale, saying only that the building had been bought by a 'local property company'. They confirmed

the complex had fetched £800,000 when it went under the hammer. This was less than the guide price of between £1.2 and £1.5m.

Previous owners Abstract decided to put the office block up for sale as Dudley Council favoured the £50 million Porters Field project submitted by developer Avenbury.

Bosses from the company said they wanted to concentrate on projects other than in Dudley.

Former owners Abstract said they were pleased the building had been sold and believed the complex would

still play an important role in the regeneration of that part of the town.

Director Chris McPherson: "Cavendish House is a key piece in the jigsaw for proposals submitted for that part of the town centre."

If successful, the Porters Field project would see restaurants, shops and houses built alongside a supermarket.

Under that scheme, Cavendish House would be demolished to allow for a modern store and a stylish public piazza. Officials say the project would bring in an estimated 500 jobs. Avenbury was unavailable for comment.

Reduced library hours as museum faces axe

OPENING hours will be reduced at libraries across the Dudley borough under new proposals for the future running of the service.

Many libraries will also become single staffed under proposals put forward by Dudley Council bosses.

Cuts would also be made to opening hours at the borough's archives centre in Dudley.

Councillors have been advised to approve a plan to establish a Libraries, Archives and Learning Mutual, which would involve the services being run by council employees, independent of the authority itself. Councillors and volunteers will also be invited to get on board.

If given the nod, the changes would begin to come into force from next April, with single staffing to be introduced to all libraries during mornings apart from main libraries in Dudley, Brierley Hill, Stourbridge and Halesowen.

From April 2017 library opening hours would be reduced. Dudley's archives centre, which opened in 2013 at a cost of £6m, would also have its weekly opening hours slashed from 41-and-a-half to 30-and-a-half.

Committed

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member responsible for libraries and archives said: "We are committed to delivering high quality services to our existing customers and at the same time providing opportunities to widen access to community services."

Conservative opposition leader Councillor Patrick Harley said: "It shouldn't be the decision of the council to reduce opening hours. The council should set up the new delivery model and then hand it over and let them decide how to run it."

The news follows the announcement that Dudley Museum and Art Gallery is to close, up to 275 council jobs are to go and council tax to rise in a bid to save £20m over three years. Public toilets, dog bins and gritting lorries could also be in the firing line.

Finance boss Councillor David Sparks said the council had to take tough decisions. The museum closure, as well as cutting opening hours at the Red House Glass Cone in Wordsley, could save more than £750,000 by 2018/19.

But Keith Turley, chairman of the Dudley Society of Artists, said: "I am horrified."

Steve Briscoe, who is behind plans to establish a new Dudley Civic Society described the cuts as a 'kick in the teeth'.



Marion Griffiths, who is marking 25 years as a volunteer, at the annual pink day at the White House Breast Cancer Care group, Dudley

Surprise party has Marion in pink

WHEN breast cancer survivor Marion Griffiths was given the all clear, she decided to do something for other women who were going through the same experience.

Now 25 years on, she has been recognised for her efforts helping people through their ordeal.

The ladies at the Breast Cancer Care group who meet each month at the White House Cancer Support centre in Ednam Road, Dudley, showed their appreciation for Marion by throwing her a surprise party.

Her achievement coincided with the group's annual pink day, which is held every October to raise awareness of breast cancer.

The group, made up of around 30 women, has played an important part in helping people get through breast cancer, offering support and encouragement. All the members are able to share their own experiences.

Marion, aged 68, said: "It's an absolutely fabulous group. We talk and offer help and encouragement. We have all come out the other side so it gives them help and encouragement."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Homes pledge to bring more cash

CASH-STRAPPED Dudley Council has said it will aim to ensure 1,000 homes are built every year across the borough until 2019 to bring in much-needed money through council tax payments.

They have targeted council tax as a way of bringing in more cash and will seek to push through developments over the next three years.

Finance boss Councillor David Sparks said: "One of the borough's huge strengths is the fact that it is a desirable and attractive place where people want to live."

College promotes a digital future

HALESOWEN College will be stepping into the digital future for its open events this November.

The Whittingham Road campus will be open from 4-8pm on November 6 and from 10am to 4pm the following day for potential students to check out the state-of-the-art facilities and range of courses on offer.

Principal Keith Bate said: "The college is at the forefront of including new technology in its teaching and facilities to enhance learning and prepare our students for higher education and the needs of employers."

Memorial work now under way

WORK to install a restored war memorial at its new location in Woodseton is under way.

The monument, which stood outside Mount Tabor Church for many years, will be sited further along Sedgley Road West.

New engraving has been etched onto the memorial and workers have begun putting the memorial in place. Councillor Keiran Casey said: "We wanted to have it in place in time for Remembrance services this year."

Ex-welder Sean to dish out a barrel of laughs

A BLACK Country comedian will headline Can Comedy's next Barrel of Laughs night in Lye.

Former Dudley welder Sean Percival, who also writes comedy scripts, will perform his stand-up act at Sadlers Brewhouse and Bar on the Conyers Trading Estate, Station Drive on November 25 from 8pm.

Also appearing will be Michael Crump, who starred in Lenny Henry's recent comedy drama Danny and the Human Zoo.

Chef curries favour

A CHEF from Halesowen has been voted one of the best curry cooks in the UK. Kayum Ali, executive chef at Spice Fusion in Long Lane, was one of 40 cooks to receive official recognition for their contribution to the curry industry at the Curry Chef of the Year Awards.

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GREAT inventions of our time. A reader reports a BBC local news webpage informing us that a cyclist involved in a crash was wearing "see-through cycling glasses." They are definitely the best sort.

BEHOLD, a bright new golden age dawns between Britain and China. China's President Xi and his wife get three nights in Buckingham Palace, a ride in a golden carriage and a meeting with William and Kate. Chinese tourists get cheaper travel visas to visit Britain. We Brits get a new nuclear power station which won't be finished until 2025 and will then produce electricity twice as expensive as it is now. You may call this a great leap forward but it looks to me like China's revenge for the Opium Wars.

LAST Wednesday was the exact date that Marty McFly and the Doc travelled to in the movie Back to the Future II. Cue nostalgic smiles from TV and radio presenters, a rash of celebration parties and the overuse of words such as iconic and ground-breaking.

All today's hype ("The World Celebrates" - Guardian, etc) is based on the assumption that everybody not only loves the Back to the Future trilogy but remembers them word-perfectly. Include me out. They may be moderately entertaining and they have a certain cultish appeal but they're not exactly Star Wars, are they?

BILL Bryson declares in his new book, The Road to Little Dribbling, that Britain was at its best in the early 1970s, having achieved 'a kind of perfection'. Really? I must have missed it. In 1971 I found shirts at Preston market for a bargain £3, while a new tyre for the car was £6. The catch? I was earning less than £12 a week. In today's global, cheap-as-chips world you cannot begin to explain how much it cost simply to feed and dress ourselves in the 1970s.

IT is estimated that the new power station at Hinkley Point will produce enough electricity to supply six million homes. It is undiplomatic to ask how much of this electricity will be consumed by Chinese tourists?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Traders' Sunday best for market success

TRADERS are hopeful its promising Sunday Market start will continue until Christmas after a successful opening last weekend.

For the first time in its history, Dudley Market welcomed shoppers on a Sunday and stallholders hope interest will continue to grow as the weeks progress.

It comes after traders took over responsibility for the day-to-day running of the market from Dudley Council.

By Lee Watton

They said the market had been busy in the morning and while it had slowed down later in the afternoon people had continued to visit during the day.

Len Lenihan, chairman of Dudley Market Traders Ltd which has taken over running of the market, said it had been a strong start.

"To say it was the very first time, it went really well and everyone is very confident it will grow as it gets closer to Christmas," he said.

Increase

"Everyone is very pleased with the response. Now we can build on it."

Mr Lenihan said around half of the available stalls were operating on Sunday. This is expected to increase as the weeks go on. Shoppers Sarah and Simon Townend, from Dudley, said they thought the market opening on a Sunday in the run-up to Christmas was a good idea.

Sarah, aged 50, said: "I think it will be a real boost for traders and visitors."

Trader Jo Forrest who was running a stall with her sister Jessie Powell said: "I think the market is generating a lot of interest and events such as this help that."

Dawn Cope, 33, from the town, was at the market with her family. She said: "I think a lot of people will take advantage of the same opportunity once more people know about it."

Trader Wendy Farmer, who sells clothing for youngsters and has traded from the market for 25 years, said it had been a really promising start.

Deputy Mayor Councillor Mohammed Hanif was pleased to see the town busy on the opening Sunday. He said: "I think it's an excellent move forward, not only for Dudley but for the borough. It's great to see independent businesses and markets being given the opportunity to thrive and have the chance to do well."



Customers Sarah and Simon Townend with stallholder Len Lenihan



Dawn Cope and her family enjoy the Sunday market with face painter Steph Craig



Traders Jessie Powell, Wendy Farmer and Jo Forrest on Wendy's baby stall

Museum's entrance designed for pupils

A NEW £150,000 entrance for school pupils arriving at the Black Country Living Museum has been opened.

Museum bosses said the entrance would further improve links with Dudley Zoo and Dudley canal tunnels.

Guests attended the launch of the new entrance which is accessible via a new link road off Tipton Road near Dudley Archives.

It encompasses a single-storey brick building that has an inside function room, covered outdoor area and toilet block. Cast iron window frames and gas lamps are also in-keeping with the museum.

The build has been two years in the making and was funded by the European Regional Development Fund and also The Connie and Albert Taylor Trust.

The museum's head of learning Mel Weatherley said: "This part was completely overgrown before and school trips were being organised on the car park. This will make it a lot easier for a range of activities to take place."

Zoo donation

THREE chinchillas have been donated to Dudley Zoo after their owner developed an allergy to them. Meeko, Tink and their daughter Lady have been handed over to the presentation team in the Discovery Centre at the Castle Hill attraction.

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Angela Daniels, aged 61, from Halesowen, with Tommy Mundon memorabilia



Sisters Angela Daniels and Jill Hughes, who are compiling a book of memories of Tommy Mundon

Magic Mundon memories

TIME is running out for fans of a Black Country comedian to share their stories about him. A pair of writers preparing a book about Tommy Mundon are approaching their deadline.

Retired teacher Angela Daniels, of Halesowen, and her sister Jill Hughes are writing a book about the comic, who died last year aged 80 following a long battle with Parkinson's Disease.

The pair have been compiling stories from people who knew Tommy, but the deadline is the end of the month.

Mrs Daniels encouraged anyone who wants to share their tales of the comic to send them over before it is too late.

The 61-year-old said: "It's people's last chance to send their stories over. The response has been very good and I've

certainly got lots of things to put into the book. We don't want people to miss out on their chance to send their stories to us – so that's why we wanted to give them one final reminder."

She added: "We knew Tommy in two different ways, he was a family friend and our parents are actually godparents to his children, but we also performed with him."

Blessing

"We went to his funeral and whilst we were there we realised just how many people had stories about what a great man he was, everybody had their anecdotes."

Mrs Daniels and Mrs Hughes performed with Tommy in the 1970s.

Mrs Daniels said they approached Val Mundon, Tommy's

widow, who gave them her blessing. The pair are now looking for stories from anybody who ever spent time with Tommy to add their memories to the book.

"We have no writing background, so whilst it will tell the story of Tommy's life it will focus more on tributes from others," Mrs Daniels said.

"We are collecting tributes now and we expect the project to take around 18 months.

"He was a comedian in all senses of the word. Many comedians are quite serious when they are not on stage but Tommy had this ability to make you laugh whenever you spoke to him."

Anybody wishing to contribute to the book or to raise money for Mary Stevens Hospice, can email angelaandjill@gmail.com or call 0121 550 3221.



Tommy with comedy star Ken Dodd

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews



Leaders force the issue on diversity

WHAT would you say is your biggest concern about policing at the moment?

The fact they are closing down police stations in half of the Black Country? Or maybe the police chief who said we should not automatically expect the boys in blue to come running when we have been affected by something so trivial as a burglary.

Then there is the proliferation of speed cameras financed by the booming industry of "speed awareness courses", where motorists pay £90 to spend the day being patronised by tedious public-sector types to avoid getting points on their licence.

However, it appears that Home Secretary Theresa May believes there is a more pressing issue. A lack of diversity in the ranks. I must admit, I was a bit worried about that, too. All those sleepless nights agonising about diversity targets, they take their toll you know.

Mrs May says not one of the 43 forces in England and Wales looks anything like the community they serve. Now, of course, it should be a most basic requirement that the police treat everybody equally, regardless of race or religion, both when dealing with the public and in recruitment. But that should be the beginning and the end of the matter.

Surely, rigging the recruitment process to make forces a perfect cross-section of society is taking a sledgehammer to crack a nut. If we were really serious about having a police force that represents the society we live in, there would need to be far more targets. For example, the Health and Social Care Information Centre says 66.6 per cent of the UK population are overweight. So our officers had better make it burgers and chips in the canteen, then.

Also, around one in every 1,000 people has a burglary conviction. Does that mean we need a few token house-breakers? And what about the 500,000 people in England over the age of 90? Old folk should be represented too.

An alternative approach is that we could just forget all about diversity, and choose the best people for the job, regardless of their background. Controversial, I know, but it might catch on.

■ ■ ■
ANOTHER little ray of sunshine comes from those fun-loving funksters at the National Institute for Clinical Excellence. They say there is now no safe level of alcohol for middle-aged people, and even modest consumption of beer or wine for people aged 40 to 65 can increase the risk of dementia and result in an eventual memory loss.

Meanwhile, the National Institute for Clinical Excellence says there is no safe level of alcohol consumption for middle-aged people. Even modest consumption of beer or wine can lead to dementia and memory loss. I think.



Bill in his Suffolk Regiment uniform



With his Army compatriots, Bill, seen far right, was a survivor of the Japanese prisoner of war camps



Bill seen in later life as a war veteran

Hero Bill who lived a long and happy life

LEE WATTON tells the remarkable story of former Japanese prisoner of war Bill Wheale who has died aged 97

THE horrific scenes he witnessed would haunt anyone for the rest of their life – but former prisoner of war William Wheale did not let these experiences define him.

And tributes are now being paid to the great-grandfather from Tipton, who has died aged 97.

Better known as Bill, his family has paid tribute to a man with a terrific sense of humour and whose greatest pride was that all of his five grandchildren attended university.

During the Second World War, Bill's unit, the 4th Battalion of the Suffolk Regiment, was taken captive when the Japanese conquered Singapore in February 1942.

He was marched inland to work on the infamous Burma Railway, a military supply route for the expanding Japanese empire.

Fortnight

And when cholera hit the prison camp where he was held, Bill was put to work burying the dead. In a single fortnight his squad were burying 40 corpses a day – and would not be fed until the grim task was completed.

Bill's son Roger, 69, said while the experiences had understandably stayed with his father for the rest of his life he had not let them define who he was.

And unlike many, he was able to tell his family some of the details of what he had witnessed and experienced during his time as a prisoner of war – although some of the worst experiences were pushed to the back of his mind.

Roger said: "He had the occasional nightmare but was able to move on. He used to share some of the things he had experienced.

"He used to talk about how the jungle was velvet black at night and the sounds of the animals were so loud it was like machinery. Then



Bill Wheale's widow Ivy and son Roger with a picture of him during the Second World War

a tiger would make a noise and all of the other animals would fall silent for a time." Roger said his father had also talked about the lack of food given to the prisoners and the methods they used to try and get more sustenance.

"He always used to say dried yak was too chewy to describe and on one occasion him and three others had captured a vulture to try to eat. They boiled it in an oil drum for three days and it was still not edible. They decided to try and use it as bait but nothing else wanted it either." Bill also spoke of his first meal after being freed in 1945. He used to say: "I ate 27 rounds of bread and butter and five courses of every meal."

Roger said he had never really known his father to worry about anything. "During his time as a prisoner of war he had seen everything – beatings, decapitations – the true harshness of life and death. I don't think any-

thing else, any other situation, was able to hit him in the same way." After enduring the ordeal of cholera, Bill's right leg became so ulcerated that amputation seemed inevitable.

His mates scrounged a handful of toilet-disinfectant crystals. The camp doctor scraped the ulcer away from the bone and covered the cavity with the crystals. When the wound went septic, a handful of maggots was applied to digest the pus. He survived but it was a close-run thing.

Bill's war ended when the crew of a submarine spotted the smoke from a fire and sent someone to investigate. It was August 29, 1945. He returned home by slow boat so did not arrive back in Britain until the end of 1945.

Bill married his wife of nearly 70 years, Ivy, now 98, in 1946 at Netherton Church. The couple had met in Priory Park, Dudley, before



Bill, left, during a wreath-laying ceremony

the war. His best man was friend Norman Sargeant.

He went to work at engineering firm Horseley Bridge and Thomas Piggott working his way up from clerk to transport manager before his retirement in the 1980s.

Bill is survived by Ivy, Roger, other son Adrian, 63, alongside five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He died at his home following complications with his heart and his funeral was held on October 15 at Gornal Wood Crematorium. Roger said: "He was very proud of the work Horseley Bridge did and was most proud that all of his grandchildren went to university. He had a sense of humour and was not above laughing at himself.

"Whatever situation he was in he never seemed to worry. He had seen it all. He will be deeply missed."

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D-Day heroes back at beaches 70 years on



Arthur Jones, 89, of Pendeford, Albert Gallier, 96, Bridgnorth, Albert Mobbs, 92, Perton, George Waterfield, 91, Lower Gornal, George Griffiths, 90, West Bromwich, Horris Smith, 91, Netherton, and Les Marsh, 91, Halesowen

THEIR heroics will be remembered for generations to come. Now D-Day veterans have been taken back to Normandy for the first time since 1944.

It all became possible through campaigner Joy Widdowson, who saw a piece in The Legion magazine around six months ago, calling upon all Second World War veterans to take part in a 'once in a lifetime' opportunity to return to Normandy.

Ten veterans from Bridgnorth, Gornal and Wolverhampton, along with their relatives, embarked on the five-day trip. The coach went on to pick up another 30 veterans from Bristol before heading to Portsmouth dock to get the ferry.

The group of veterans paid their respects to the fallen at many of the cemeteries, including Ranville and Ba-



Horris Smith, 91, of Netherton, and Les Marsh, 91, of Halesowen

yeux. They were also taken to key sites such as Pegasus Bridge, Cafe Gondree, Point Du Hoc, Sword, June, Gold and Omaha beaches and Royal Marines Memorial, where they laid a reef.

Veterans like Albert Mobbs said they wanted to stand on the beaches again while they still had the chance. The 92-year-old, of Perton, was part of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) and was part of the

Tank Brigade 6th Guard, serving from 1941 to 1947.

He said: "The trip exceeded every expectation I had. It brought back some wonderful memories and it's a trip I would definitely encourage every veteran to go on."

The trip was run by Arena Travel and part-funded by Libor fines paid by banks that have rigged interest rates.

Mrs Widdowson, of Pendeford, has been involved in the Royal British Legion for 10 years. She said: "I was proud of every single one of those men getting on that coach."

"I'm happy to have been part of the process in making this happen."

Mark Butcher, 47, from Penn, said his father-in-law, George Waterfield, from Gornal, aged 91, who served on the Royal Corps of Signals, had wanted to return to Normandy for years.

He said: "I'm extremely proud of George."

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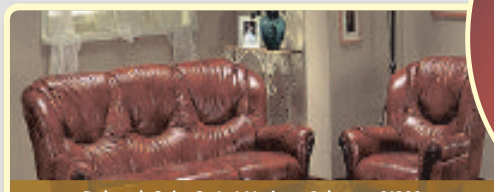
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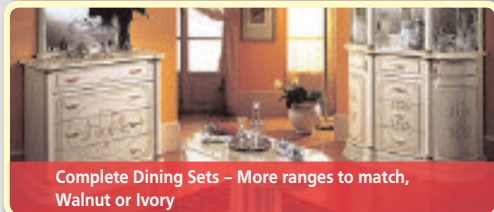
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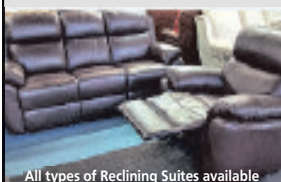


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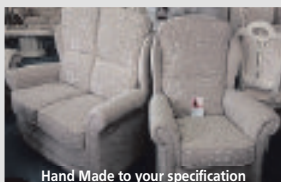


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Heathens hit skids as finale is abandoned

IT could prove to be Cradley Heathens last-ever home meeting - but it had to be abandoned with bosses left apologising to fans.

The plug was pulled after 10 heats of the Knockout Cup Final First Leg against Eastbourne staged at Perry Barr Stadium last Wednesday, with the scores level at 30-30.

Officials said bad weather prior to the event had left the track in less than ideal conditions. Time then simply ran out with speedway events at the stadium not having permission to continue past 10am.

The result stood going into Saturday's second leg, which a depleted Heathens came up short with a 47-43 defeat.

"We would like to apologise for the unsatisfactory manner in which the leg was staged. It was less than ideal for such an important event," said club spokesman Andy Pobey.

Optimistic

"We would like to offer our sincere thanks to all supporters who were patient during track work and the riders for giving it there all in less than ideal circumstances."

Fans had mixed views on the club's future - though many remained optimistic it would continue.

The Heathens were plunged into crisis when chairman Nigel Pearson and club partners Chris Van Straatan and Gary Patchett recently announced they were stepping down.

Fan Paul Rose, 44, of Netherton, said: "I have been a fan ever since I was a child and remember events at Dudley Wood back in the 1990s. I am optimistic new people will come in. Also the club has to move back nearer Wolverhampton as that is more suited



John Hotchkiss and daughter Millie



Crowds at the last home meeting



Brothers Andrew and Martin Johnson

to the fan base." But Nigel Taylor, 46, of Halesowen, said he could not see anyone taking on the club.

"I just can't see it happening which is heartbreaking to be honest," he said.

"When races were held in Wolverhampton I think it was better. Events were packed out. But here in Perry



Nigel Taylor, aged 46, from Halesowen

Barr it is just not the same. I can't put my finger on it but the atmosphere has just not been there."

The Cradley Heathens have been thwarted by an on-going search for a permanent home after losing their home track in Dudley Wood two decades ago.

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Privatisation is to blame for ills

WITH the news that more steel workers are losing their jobs, we should be asking ourselves about the credibility of this Government's ability to create a 'Northern powerhouse'. Perhaps it was a slip of Osborne's tongue, but it seems to me that they are creating instead a 'Northern poor-house'.

The main reason that our steel industry is in decline is that steel manufacture is a highly energy-intensive activity and energy costs in Britain are the highest in Europe.

Think back, wasn't privatisation supposed to reduce energy costs? After all, we all trade in the same market. What the To-

ries who privatised it all forgot to mention was that as nationalised industries they traded as a single huge entity with Government backing, giving them immense bargaining power.

Now, as smaller private organisations they have much less influence. Instead of profits from energy created in the UK going to our exchequer, we are paying wealthy foreign shareholders to increase our living costs and to make our industries uncompetitive. How crazy is that?

M CLIFF
Wall Heath

Dismay at vandalism

SOMEWHERE between Friday, October 16, and Monday, October 19, some mindless idiots smashed up the children's playground at Roberts school, Upper Gornal. The morons who did this not only stopped the children playing in the area but restricted their education.

Probably those who did this cannot read even, if they can, they couldn't care less about the heartache they have caused. One day they may have children or pay tax, then they may realise the problems and cost this has caused. I hope that someone has seen and reports you. I know children who go to the school, and they are most upset.

N D CADDICK
Coseley

Patriotism's worth a shot

I AGREE with Nigel Haslilow's comment piece - We won't keep the red flag flying. Forcing children to sing the national anthem at school would be an excellent demonstration of precisely how 'liberal, tolerant and open-minded' today's UK is.

But why not go further and also make payment towards the upkeep of the Royal Family optional for each and every tax payer?

That way patriotic parents would have an opportunity to show their loyalty too: by proudly 'opting in' to pay the mere 56p the Palace estimates it currently costs each hard working striver.

S ROBERTS
Halesowen

No solution to power problems

THE UK is in its worst position for at least the last 10 years with the supply of our electricity. We have a minimal excess of supply over demand of less than two per cent. The industry itself says we need at least 10 times that for comfort and safety.

On BBC television we are informed that 'big' users are being 'asked' to try to use less. A more cynical person than me may call it a 'bribe'. The Government promises to keep the lights on but if we have the severe winter we have been expecting it's unlikely this can be done. People - the old, sick or very young - are at risk. People may die.

What can be done? Well we could try prayer and hope for another mild winter. We are now paying the price for lack of investment in our power producing infrastructure by successive governments of whatever political party. There are no easy solutions.

M GOUGH
Wombourne

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Town could become just like Disneyland

I ENJOYED reading B Osborne's reminiscences about the Gypsies Tent, but I would disagree with his thought that it should have been acquired by the Black Country Living Museum.

But that apart, other towns and cities also have historic buildings and sites, usually left where they are or in close proximity of the centre. York, Worcester, Stratford and Hereford are good examples. What is there in Dudley? The council obviously thinks the Black Country Living Museum is the town's saviour, according to a recent article.

Headlined: 'Town is at centre of tourist revival', it said: "Civic bosses admit

that the town has the unenviable reputation for its rows of empty shops and that they are pinning their hopes on the museum making the town a top tourist spot."

But developments are taking place at the bottom of the town and Tipton Road. Conveniently for the visitors and tourists, Castle Gate is also down there to meet their needs. Tell me, how is this going to regenerate the town centre?

It will be no more than a form of Disneyland where all whims and needs are catered for within the complex.

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A walk up the winding staircase at the Portal



The Portal, the new-look canal trust visitor attraction



The old canal trust visitor centre, which resembled a green shed



Canal Trust chief executive Nick Morris stands on the balcony



Gongoozlers restaurant

Centre makes splash

A £3.4 million visitor centre run by Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust has opened its doors to the public.

Featuring a restaurant, gift shop and learning space for schools, The Portal will also be available for wedding receptions and community events.

The modern building is situated next to the entrance to Dudley's network of canal tunnels and limestone caverns.

"It is an incredibly exciting time for us," said the trust's chief executive, Nick Morris. "I think when you look at what we have left behind in

our old premises of the green shed, it has really transformed the outlook for everyone.

"Now we have a great education area which allows us to properly work alongside schools for the whole day. Our rooms can also be used for activities such as senior days and wedding facilities too," he explained.

Tarpaulin

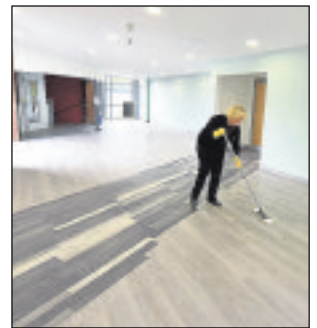
The £3.4 million centre comes following funding supported by the European Regional Development Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund, Biffa Award and Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership. It has created 15 jobs. Mr Morris

said: "The shed used to leak was covered with a tarpaulin most of the time, with no heating and no running water, so it could be quite difficult.

"We used to come into work of a morning and go straight to the tap and fill up a water bottle just to make a cup of tea. Now we have staff showers and central heating. It's great."

The Portal also features an interactive exhibition in the Biffa Award Gallery, and a restaurant called Gongoozlers, offering posh Black Country nosh. It can seat up to 85 people.

After opening its doors on October 19, it has already received positive feedback. Mr Morris added: "Everyone who has visited so far is really impressed."



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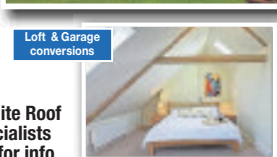
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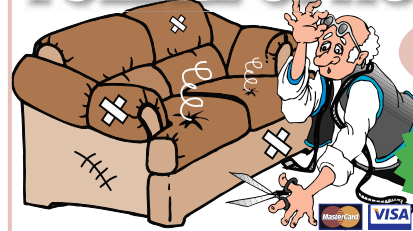
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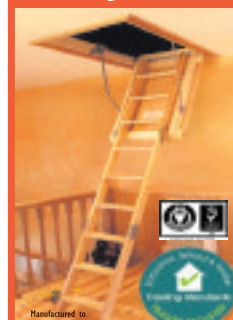
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The last round up for a dedicated Wild West fan

HE had a collection of Western memorabilia that spanned the decades and even met some of his heroes from the silver screen.

Tributes have been paid to Wild West enthusiast Michael Whittaker from Brierley Hill who has died at the age of 76.

His brother Tony Whittaker said: "He was an absolute character and one of a kind. The community will be at a loss without him."

Michael was a huge fan of old cowboy movies and his huge collection even included a signed book by a genuine Wild West legend, showman Buffalo Bill.

Michael also had a picture of himself with American actor Clayton Moore, the American former circus acrobat who played The Lone Ranger on TV and starred in dozens of Western movies in the 1930s, 40s and 50s.

His entire haul of memorabilia includes dozens of Native American figurines, cushions, tins, portraits, replica rifles and boxes of Western movie videos.

Shane

One of his most prized items was a gun believed to have been the same one used by movie star Alan Ladd in the classic 1954 Oscar winner Shane.

Tony, aged 71, added: "It was his absolute passion since being a young lad. He built up the collection and we will never part with it."

"I think he had more Indians than Custer at the Battle of Little Bighorn." Michael, aged 76, died at his home in Mount Pleasant, Brierley Hill, earlier this month.

He was born in Brierley Hill but didn't attend school regularly due to ill health.

His parents, Emily and Roland



Michael's brother Tony and nephew Steven with the enthusiast's collection



Michael Whittaker with The Lone Ranger star Clayton Moore in the 1980s

Whittaker, owned numerous pubs in the area including The Potters Arms, Stores Inn and The Nine Locks and Chain Makers.

Michael began working as a printer at Marsh and Baxter in Brierley Hill, in the 1950s before becoming a lock keeper with British Waterways. He served 25 years with them before retiring in 2004.

Following the death of Michael and Tony's mother in 2002, Michael got to travel to America. Businessman Tony said: "Michael travelled the world with me following the death of mom. We were in the Arizona desert when he saw an Indian chief making a wind chime and decided to buy it off him."

"He was incredibly well known and liked by everyone."

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Borough among poorest, but residents happy, says study

THE Dudley borough is among the least prosperous areas in the UK – but according to a report its residents are the happiest in the Black Country.

The borough has not fared as badly as its near neighbours in Wolverhampton and Sandwell in the study by thinktank The Legatum Institute.

Wolverhampton was ranked the least prosperous place to live in the same report – and Sandwell was the second least prosperous.

Listed church puts in plans for makeover

A GRADE II listed Black Country church is putting plans forward for a six figure revamp which will see it modernised for the community.

Holy Trinity Church, in Old Hill, near Cradley Heath, is looking to develop and create new seating, flooring, storage and office space, costing in the region of at least £100,000.

Church leaders are inviting people along to their Vision Day on Sunday November 15 at 10.45am, which will lay out the Parochial Church Council's plans for the next year and encourage family members to support and contribute towards the project.

Churchwarden Rachel Ford, 55, said: "The church building has been part of the life and fabric of both the community of Old Hill and the Holy Trinity church family for almost 140 years."

The vicar of Holy Trinity, Reverend Nick Gowers said: "We're really excited about our new project to re-organise the interior."

A leading councillor dismissed the report for being out of touch with life in Dudley borough, which was ranked the 39th least prosperous area in the UK.

Walsall was 29th while Wolverhampton and Sandwell hit numbers one and two on the list respectively.

The Dudley borough was, however, found to have the happiest residents in the Black Country. Dudley Council's opposition Conservative group leader Councillor Patrick Harley said of the findings: "These surveys are probably done in some office somewhere – to be honest you can take them with a pinch of salt."

Heritage

"Dudley people are proud of their heritage and excited about the future."

For its inaugural Geography of Prosperity index, The Legatum Institute compared the prosperity of 170 areas across Britain. It combined the Eurostat's data on gross domestic product for UK local areas and the ONS's well-being statistics.

For life satisfaction, Dudley ranked 104th, with a rating of 7.55, Sandwell ranked 168th, with a rating of 7.25. For GDP per capita, Dudley was 154th with an average salary of £13,795, Sandwell was ranked 111th, with an average salary of just over £17,000.



The clock tower at the Moor Centre in Brierley Hill High Street

Time up for clock tower

TIME has been standing still in Brierley Hill – but not for much longer with plans to demolish and replace the faulty town clock tower as part of a £100,000 raft of improvements.

The 40ft landmark has stood outside the Moor Centre since 1998 but due to a fault with the electrical supply it has never worked properly leaving each of the four faces showing a different time.

The owners of the Moor Centre have now revealed they plan to start work dismantling the tower before the end of the year.

As well as installing a new four-faced clock, new benches and signs will be installed as part of a revamp of the main square.

Matt Pegg, asset manager of London & Cambridge Properties (LCP), which manages the centre on behalf of owners Evolve Estates, said: "We're delighted to have in place plans to see the old clock tower replaced with a new one."

Trust in call for help with walled garden

A HERITAGE group is appealing for sponsors to help restore Halesowen's Leasowes Park and its famous walled garden.

Halesowen Abbey Trust, which owns the the Grade I listed garden along with Leasowes Estate, is looking for local sponsorship and businesses that 'genuinely care' and would like to donate to the redevelopment of the site. Members' aim is to restore the garden and three other historic areas in the park.

Mick Freer, acting honorary secretary of the trust, said: "The revamp of the walled garden is going very well. We are continuing to work on other areas of the park and aim to drop in leaflets to locals to keep raising awareness of what we're doing here."

"We aim to plant a number of orchids on December 12 with people sponsoring each placed one. We've had over 100 volunteers at any one time helping us, with over 50 of them being regulars."

"On the site there is about 100 tons of rubble that still needs discarding of. We cannot do it on our own and appeal to any local business that has the resources and machinery to help us move it off the park."

To offer sponsorship, or work in partnership with the trust, email mick.freer@leasoweswalledgardens.co.uk or call 07855473045.

Pub backed despite concerns over noise

A NEW pub has been given the go-ahead in Cradley Heath despite fears from environmental health bosses over the impact of noise.

Presleys bar will open in High Street on the site of the former Essentials store.

It was granted a premises licence by Sandwell Council with conditions it stops playing music at 11pm from Sunday to Wednesday and at 12.30am from Thursday to Saturday.

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Victim of raid was knifed in the chest

TWO masked raiders burst into a flat to steal cannabis before brutally beating and stabbing a man in the chest.

Tyrone Ford and Aaron Brown-Williams fractured Dale Chilton's skull, stabbed him with a knife and hit him with a rake before fleeing with £2,200 of property and his Audi.

Ford, of Dudley Road, West Bromwich, was arrested after police saw him pushing the broken-down Audi. Checks revealed it was stolen.

They had tried to trick their way into Mr Chilton's flat in Stonall, by claiming to be police officers. When that failed, they smashed a window and clambered in.

Weapon

Miss Sally Hancox, prosecuting at Stafford Crown Court, said they demanded cash and cannabis but Mr Chilton tried to fend them off with a knife. Ford, aged 24, got hold of the weapon and used it on the victim.

He was jailed for a total of 12-and-a-half years after admitting wounding with intent, robbery, theft, conspiracy to pervert the course of justice and possessing a prohibited article in prison.

Brown-Williams, aged 32, from Grantham, admitted

By Simon Stone

robbery and theft and was jailed for nine years.

Tyrone's brother Liam, aged 27 was also given three years for burglary with intent to steal cannabis and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. He was arrested in Halesowen on January 12. He took no part in the violence. At the time of the burglary, he was out on licence. He has been recalled to serve the rest of his sentence, due to expire in 2020.

Mr Ben Williams, defending the brothers, said: "They didn't turn up armed with weapons - it was the complainant who introduced the knife in to the situation."

Mr Ben Walker-Nolan, for Brown Williams, said: "The two serious injuries were not attacks my client participated in."

Half-term circus fun rolls into town



Ringmaster Robert Price with Las Chicas Morales as the circus comes to town at Merry Hill

ROLL up, roll up - the circus has arrived in town and promises a thrilling week of death-defying circus acts.

Gandey's Circus has set up at Merry Hill shopping centre for the half-term week.

High wire artist Marco Polo, acrobats Duo Serik and Romy and her magical Aerial Crystal Ball are among the acts to entertain audiences.

Chico Rico the clown will also be getting up to his usual antics.

Circus Director, Phillip Gandey, said: "All the artists are very excited to be performing in the West Midlands after hearing of the warm reception we were given last year."

Producer Carol Gandey said: "We try to make each of our shows unique, giving the audience a completely new experience year on year."

The fully heated theatre big top will be on the North Car Park of shopping centre until Sunday. Tickets range from £8 to £26 and can be purchased from the onsite box office or by visiting www.gandeyscircus.com or calling 0843 208 0500.

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WOULD you be willing to pay more council tax?

This is what some people like to call a QTWTAIN (question to which the answer is 'no').

But it's a question Mike Bird is prepared to spend £250,000 asking.

Walsall Council, like everyone else, is making more cuts. And half a decade in to austerity budgets, many local authorities would like to be able to put council tax up.

But they've had their hands tied by rules that force them to hold a referendum if they want to increase council tax by more than two per cent.

In the early years of George Osborne's austerity councils also had the incentive of funding the equivalent of a modest rise if they left the precept alone.

Risk

Walsall will put up its council tax by just under the two per cent threshold next year, avoiding the need to ask the question and go to the enormous expense of the referendum, not to mention run the considerable risk of being given the biggest 'no' since the residents of the Bernard Matthews farm were asked if they enjoyed Christmas.

But the year after that Walsall's leader Councillor Bird is prepared to put it to the vote, if only because it will mean people understand the implications of refusing to cough up the extra money – the services that will be lost or scaled back.

A referendum sounds like giving



Walsall Council leader Mike Bird

local people the ultimate power but part of me does have to wonder, isn't this what we elect the councillors to decide?

If a political party in charge of a local authority treats the council tax as an inexhaustible money tree, it can be voted out come election time. A pledge to freeze or even reduce it should be a manifesto issue.

Given that Labour and the Tories are keen on devolution of power and responsibility to combined authorities and town halls, maybe it is time to give them back control over their own budgets and let the public have the say in the local elections.

It wouldn't cost a penny more. And it beats spending a cool quarter of a million to answer a question everyone already knows the answer to.

After a fantastic few years, this is

my last column before I move on to a new role elsewhere. I'd like to thank everyone who has ever read this, everyone who has ever written to me, tweeted me, commented on the column online and shown me what a rich mix of opinion and debate exists.

I've interviewed the last three Prime Ministers, been told off by John Prescott, taken tea with Tony Benn, watched Norman Tebbit look up the definition of marriage, had a stand-up row with Michael Gove's staff over an unexpected question, and even had careers advice from William Hague.

This is what he said: "It's important with politics, as it is with everything else, that you go out while you're still enjoying it before people wonder why you haven't gone away before."

So this is me, enjoying it, going away and saying thanks.

Independent Family Owned Funeral Directors



Trevor E.W. Hickton Ltd

Whitmore House,

8-11 Lower High Street

Cradley Heath



B64 5AB

01384 569569

About The Company

Trevor EW Hickton Funeral Directors are a long established firm based in Cradley Heath. Formerly known as J.E.W. Hickton & Sons the company was established in 1909 and has been serving Cradley Heath, Halesowen and all the surrounding towns and areas since. In 1909 Joe Hickton a well known carpenter, builder, undertaker, local councillor and one time Mayor of Rowley Regis, opened a dedicated funeral home located in Lower High Street, Cradley Heath to focus on the funeral directing side of business. Along with his wife Rose, the local midwife. They became a large part of the local community, with the local saying being "she brings them in to the world, and he takes them out!" Their son William 'Bill' Hickton came in to the business in 1937 and the father and son partnership began carrying out funerals across Cradley Heath and the surrounding areas, with Bill eventually taking over the business in 1957 after Joe retired. Bill's son Trevor came in to the business in 1971 working closely with his father to continue building the company reputation.

Trevor inherited J.E.W. Hickton Funeral Directors after his father Bill passed away in 2000. In 2005 the company was registered as a Limited UK company along with a name change to what it is today, Trevor E.W. Hickton Ltd Funeral Directors. Trevor's son Ross came in to the business in 2006, followed by his other son Greg in 2010 and finally by his daughter Jodie in 2014.

The family all work together along with a team of long standing and hard working staff. The office staff comprise of former Springfield Post Office manager Mandy Parsons, who looks after the on going funeral arrangements assisted by Jodie, and Kate Davis who has worked for the company for 15 years. Kate is also the company Stone Masonry manager.

In 2014 a brand new dedicated funeral home was built on the grounds of the original funeral home in Lower High Street, to support the needs of the business. Now with three private chapels of rest, three family arrangement rooms and a private working office. The company is able to cater to all needs and requirements of their clients in a friendly and inviting funeral home.

In 2015 the decision was made to renovate the funeral home in Colley Gate with a new reception area and particularly a new shop frontage.

The office name was changed to incorporate the Hickton name as many local families were using the office who had before come to Hicktons in Cradley Heath at their time of need, they now have a closer location.

Have you thought about taking a Pre-Paid Funeral Plan out with us?

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No fixative, no surgery and the potential to fix denture stabilisation problems



Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng) with dentist Dr Polly Mineva, and right, technicians working on suction technology dentures



DENTAL technician Steve Morris carefully crafts a denture, ensuring that a small aperture on the side of the prosthetic will be able to accommodate a tiny valve.

The denture looks like any other, but the clever diaphragm development to help hold it secure can give it the edge over its traditional counterparts.

"It's clever stuff," says Steve (GDC 142474), "a small diaphragm seals off a one-way valve under bite pressure, creating a vacuum between the denture and gums. The result is a better fit to the soft tissues and improved resistance to any dislodging forces created by eating and speaking."

Steak for dinner

For the right person, the Ultra Suction Solution can remedy common denture stability problems without surgery and messy fixatives.

"We recently manufactured a second prescription for a patient. We knew the fit was as perfect as it could possibly be, but I was amazed when they called the lab to tell us they'd been on their initial 'test run' with a steak for dinner."

"The patient was very happy with the outcome," adds Steve.

The Suction Solution option attracts the

biggest number of inquiries at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.

Principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353, who heads the team at his multi-disciplined practice says: "We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this device is another useful option in our commitment to try to deliver results greater than patient expectations."

Historically, lower dentures can present stability problems as the jawbone erodes with age. With traditional dentures this can cause lower teeth to move and result in painful friction problems on gums.

The suction device can be mounted in upper or lower dentures and due to its efficiency the size of the acrylic 'plate' can sometimes be reduced, improving speech and taste.

"I need to stress, however, the option is not suitable for all, but a single, free initial consultation would determine whether it could be the way forward. We never sell solutions here, but provide honest, comprehensive, clinical appraisals that help patients make informed choices," says Steven.

To achieve an harmonious fit, Denture Clinic prescriptions are 'set' using a Biofunctional Prosthetics System (BPS) which helps accurately replicate natural teeth anatomy during the production process.

"The fit is stunningly accurate," he adds.

Typically, denture patients will be assigned more than three-and-a-half hours of surgery time in achieving the best possible outcome.

Scanner

The Denture Clinic operates hand-in-glove with Steven's North Street Dental & Implant Clinic operation.

"Having everything under one roof – denture provision, general dentistry and dental implant provision – gives us a huge set of solutions and a deep pool of clinical skill from which we can draw."

"With a 3-D scanner, modern and air conditioned surgeries and a creative team, I believe we are strongly placed to tackle most problems," says Steven.

Steven, whose clinics attracts patients from as far as Portugal, Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "Implant dentistry is the ultimate, long-term solution for denture stability problems, but it is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference."

"The beauty of the suction technology is that it has the potential to deliver in the right patient excellent retainer qualities without the complex clinical procedures required for implant work."

Could this be the answer for you?

For appointments at all clinics call
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5 North Street, Dudley,
West Midlands, DY2 7DT
www.denture-clinic.co.uk



Richmond House
112 Richmond Road, Wolverhampton, WV3 9JJ
Comberton Dental Surgery
29 Comberton Rd. Kidderminster, DY10 3DL



fast the ticket

Brave choice

Brave New World
at Wolves Grand
Preview – Page 19



He's the daddy

Paddy McGuinness at
New Alex - Page 19



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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Josh Widdicombe



Sunday, 8pm
Town Hall, Birmingham
 Ahead of his new BBC3 sitcom, stand-up comic Josh Widdicombe, a regular on Mock the Week and BBC5Live's Fighting Talk, the curly-haired Devonian asks 'What Do I Do Now...'
 Visit www.thsh.co.uk

Bobby Long



Tuesday, 7.30pm
Hare and Hounds, Kings Heath
 The British singer-songwriter and guitarist, known for evocative lyrics set to haunting melodies, comes to the south Birmingham pub venue in support of his new album Ode To Thinking.
www.hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk

Harry Enfield & Paul Whitehouse



Saturday, 7pm
Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
 The Old Gits, Smashie and Nicey, The Scousers, just a few of the characters Enfield and Whitehouse have created over 25 years and now they are taking them on tour.
 Visit www.wolvescivic.co.uk

James Rhodes



Friday, 8pm
Town Hall, Birmingham
 The maverick concert pianist, who had to fight a legal battle to publish his brutally honest memoir Instrumental, will be performing music by Chopin, Bach and Gluck-Sgambati.
 Visit www.thsh.co.uk

POP & ROCK

Jack Garratt
 Tue at 7pm, £10
 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

The Staves
 Sun at 7pm, £16
 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

Les McKeown's Bay City Rollers
 Sat at 7.30pm, £19.50 - £21
 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Think Floyd: Pink Floyd Tribute
 Fri at 8pm, £21
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.
 Call 01527 577330

The Clone Rocks: The Stone Roses Tribute
 Fri at 6.30pm - 10pm, £11
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Kick Up The 80s: 80s Tribute
 Fri at 12am, £8 - £9.50
 The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

Snakecharmer
 Thu at 8.30pm, £17.50
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. 01902 401211

IO Earth
 Sun at 7.30pm, £15 - £17.50
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Leaves Eyes
 Thu at 7pm, £13
 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Mike Zito & The Wheel
 Wed at 7.30pm, £13 - £15
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Motley Crue
 Wed at 7.30pm, £45.70
 Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Will Young: Love Revolution
 Wed at 7.30pm, £35 - £45
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Metz
 Fri at 7pm, £10
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

Classic Clapton: Eric Clapton Tribute
 Fri at 7.30pm, £15
 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Killing Joke
 Sat at 6pm, £22.50
 The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
 Call 0121 643 0428

Hawklords
 Tue at 8.30pm, £14
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

My Baby
 Wed at 7pm, £10
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Buddy Holly And The Cricketers
 Sun at 7.30pm, £17.50
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Dappy
 Sat at 6pm, £17.50
 O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Ginger Wildheart
 Fri at 7pm, Sat at 7pm, £20
 Wolverhampton Slade Rooms, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

The Drifters
 Sat at 7.30pm, £26
 Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE. Call 01543 578762

Maeftloaf: Maeftloaf Tribute
 Sat at 12am, £8
 The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397177

Raymond Froggatt
 Sun at 7.30pm, £17
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

Joe Satriani
 Mon at 7.30pm - 10.30pm, £34.50 - £38
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Back:N:Black: AC/DC Tribute
 Sat at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £15
 The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Go West & Nik Kershaw
 Fri at 8pm, £34.50
 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Steve Hackett
 Fri at 7.30pm, £27.50 - £29.50
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Claude Bourbon - Medieval & Spanish Blues
 Fri at 7.45pm, £10 - £12
 Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Luke Jackson
 Fri at 8pm, £10 - £12.50
 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

JAZZ & SOUL

EnChante: From Paris To Here
 Fri at 7.30pm, £15
 The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE. Call 0121 643 5858

King Pleasure And The Biscuit Boys
 Thu at 10pm, £5
 The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU. Call 0121 200 3030

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Vladimir Ashkenazy Conducts Rachmaninov's Symphony No 2
 Tue at 7.30pm - 10pm, £9.50 - £50
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

Performance Platform: Timothy Ridout
 Tue at 1.05pm - 2pm, £3.50 - £6.50
 Birmingham Conservatoire, Birmingham City University, B3 3HG. Call 0121 331 5901

Gospel Goes Charity 2015
 Thu at 7.30pm, £15 - £17.50
 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Fright Night Classics With The CBSO
 Sat at 7.30pm, £14.50 - £39.50
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

Orpheus
 Fri at 7.45pm, Sat at 7.45pm, £20
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Dracula The Kisses
 Sat at 8pm - 10.30pm, £12 - £14
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

Rummage!: Blah Blah Blah (Ages 5-8)
 Sat at 11.30am, 2pm, £9
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

The Snow Dragon (Over 3s)
 Fri at 11am, 2pm, Sat at 11am, 2pm, £9
 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

In The Motherhood
 Tue at 8pm, Wed at 1.30pm, 8pm, £10 - £13
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Season's Greetings
 Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £9
 Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Shakespeare Schools Festival 2015
 Wed at 7pm, Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

Shakespeare Schools Festival
 Tue at 7pm, Wed at 7pm, mac, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Call 0121 446 3232

'Allo 'Allo
 Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Oliver Samuels In Divorce Papers
 Sun at 7.30pm, £25.75 - £30.65
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

The Haunted Doll's House
 Fri at 7.30pm, £13
 The Rose Theatre, Kidderminster, DY10 2RX. Call 01562 743745

Disney On Ice: Worlds Of Enchantment
 Fri at 11am, 3pm, Sat at 3pm, Sun at 12pm, 4pm, £19.74 - £46.62
 Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA. Call 0121 780 4141

Lord Of The Files
 Tue at 7pm, Wed at 2pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm, £8.50 - £35
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

Barely Methodical Troupe: Bromance
 Fri at 7pm, £8 - £12
 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

The Amazing Bubble Man
 Fri at 11am, £8.50 - £12
 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Brave New World
 Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £10.50 - £25.50
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Jesus Christ Superstar
 Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 7.30pm, £20 - £42.50
 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Annie
 Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, Sun at 2.30pm, £20 - £42.50
 Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Blood Brothers
 Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, £19.50 - £32.50
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

COMEDY

Richard Digance
 Fri at 7.30pm, £16.25
 Palace Theatre, Redditch, B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

Ed Byrne: Outside Looking In
 Tue at 8pm, £19 - £21
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ. Call 01527 577330

Paddy McGuinness: Daddy McGuinness
 Fri at 7.30pm, £17.50 - £36
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Milton Jones And The Temple Of Daft
 Sat at 8pm, £27.90
 New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS. Call 0844 871 3011

Harry Enfield & Paul Whitehouse: Legends!
 Sat at 7pm, Sun at 7.30pm, £32.50 - £41.25
 Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

Josh Widdicombe
 Sun at 8pm, £16.50
 Birmingham Town Hall, Birmingham, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

TALKS

House Steward: The Pre-Raphaelites: Sex Drugs And Poetry (Over 18s)
 Fri at 7pm - 8.45pm, £15
 Wightwick Manor and Gardens, Wolverhampton, WV6 8EE. Call 01902 760100

Steve Backshall's Wild World
 Sun at 11.30am - 1pm, 3pm - 4.30pm, £18
 Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

Gino D'Acampo
 Tue at 8pm, £24.50
 Wolverhampton Civic Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

CLUBBING

Wolverhampton Soul Night
 Sat - Sun at 9pm - 3am, Wolverhampton Wulfrun Hall, WV1 1RQ. Call 0870 320 7000

OTHER EVENTS

Crafts For Christmas, Stitching, Sewing & Hobbyscrafts And Art Materials Live
 Thu at 9.30am - 5.30pm, The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Brave new take on classic novel

WOLVERHAMPTON Grand Theatre welcomes the world premiere of the new stage adaptation of Aldous Huxley's classic novel, *Brave New World*, from Monday to Saturday.

Featuring the offspring of theatrical royalty, the cast includes Sophie Ward, daughter of Simon, and William Postlethwaite, son of Pete. It is directed by James Dacre, whose father Paul is editor of the Daily Mail. Sophie wed Korean-American writer Rena Brannan in a well-publicised ceremony in 2000, before same-sex civil partnerships were legalised in Britain and is a campaigner for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights. If some say her sexuality defines her, she says: "I don't have a problem with that."

Sophie plays 'the controller', in the original novel a man. Feminist playwright Dawn King says she wanted to increase the gender equality.

As someone not afraid to stand up for what she believes, does Sophie think that's why she was picked to play the part? "Maybe I am known for being outspoken but I have often played quite strong parts on TV and in theatre," says Sophie. "There is a real balance with the character. She's so powerful but because of Dawn's clever writing you see that underneath it's difficult being in charge of things, it comes with its own price. You see her own doubts, her own sacrifices."

Written in 1931, the ground-breaking novel was ranked fifth on the list



Sophie Ward, right, stars in *Brave New World* at Wolverhampton Grand

of the 100 Best English Language Novels of the 20th Century. The story is set in 2540 and depicts a world where humans are genetically engineered. Family and emotional ties do not exist.

Dawn King's script is witty and forthright, based on a novel that is

more than 80 years old. But Sophie says it is still relevant: "Genetic engineering is very much on the front pages. The commercialisation of everyday life, the assisted dying debate and the legalisation of drugs – all these things were at the forefront of the novel."



'Most romantic thing I've ever done'

So now Paddy is the daddy

TV star and comic Paddy McGuinness will bring his *Daddy McGuinness* show to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on tonight (Thu) and tomorrow.

The star of ITV's *Take Me Out* returned to his performing roots in September with his first stand-up comedy tour since 2011.

McGuinness, who has enjoyed numerous sell-out tours and best-selling DVDs, said: "I'm really looking forward to being back on tour – I've missed it."

"I've got a great new show planned, *Daddy McGuinness*. Amongst many other things, I'll be sharing several stories about becoming a first-time dad and parenthood."

The host of dating show *Take Me Out* says the most romantic moment of his life was proposing to his wife, Christine Martin, on a Christmas Eve.

"That was definitely the most romantic thing I've ever done," he says.

He doesn't normally go in for grand gestures, however.

"Well, I think the best thing to do is not put yourself under too much pressure. A lot of blokes will put a lot of pressure on themselves to do something amazing."

"There's no point. If you already have the girlfriend, you are already over the line."

"It's the smaller things that work, like running a bath, cooking a meal or renting a nice film. If you start bursting through the front doors on a white stallion with a rose in your teeth she'll burst herself laughing."

Rock opera and a savage drama

TWO major theatre productions come to Birmingham next week.

Birmingham Hippodrome hosts the new theatre version of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, following the recent stadium-touring revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's musical tale of the Messiah and Judas. Glenn Carter takes the title role in the rock opera with Tim Rogers as Judas Iscariot and X Factor finalist Rachel Adedeji as Mary Magdalene.

William Golding's disturbing tale of stranded schoolboys going wild on a desert island, *Lord of the Flies*, has been adapted by Nigel Williams and the Regent's Park production explodes onto the stage at Birmingham Rep.

Guitar heroes and a pop idol returns

POP gig of the week has to be the return of singer and actor Will Young, back in the limelight with his latest single *Joy* and new album *85% Proof*.

In concert at the Symphony Hall on Wednesday, the 36-year-old former Pop Idol winner is proof that a solid career can come from talent show TV.

Watch out for folk star Seth Lakeman at the Robin 2 in Bilston tonight (Thu); ex-Genesis guitarist Steve Hackett at Symphony Hall tomorrow; guitar great Joe Satriani at Birmingham Town Hall on Monday. Or spend Halloween at the Robin 2 with BlackNBlack, the Swiss girl band tribute to AC/DC.

Triple bill of dance as Rambert roll in

THREE pieces of dance — one featuring the music of the Rolling Stones — will feature at Birmingham Rep during a four-day visit by acclaimed dance company Rambert, that began last night (Wed).

Rambert will bring the rock 'n' roll swagger of the Rolling Stones to life in *Rooster*, a sharp-suited, snake-hipped celebration of the swinging sixties.

The production will also feature *Frames*, an inventive piece by British dance's hottest property Alexander Whitley, and *Transfigured Night*, a dramatic love story by two-time Olivier-award winning choreographer Kim Brandstrup.

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Recording a short radio play on the BBC headquarters tour at Broadcasting House



The sheer size of Kew Gardens was amazing



Tower Bridge with Tower Hotel nearby



Michael Watson heads up the Jersey Boys cast

Oh, what a night as Jersey Boys sets stage for top weekend away

I'LL be working my way back' to see the phenomenal Jersey Boys again when the musical comes to Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre early next year.

But for now I'll have to content myself with some great memories of my action-packed Parry's International coach break to the capital, which included tickets for the West End show, a visit to Kew Gardens, afternoon tea at a top London hotel and a tour of the BBC's headquarters at Broadcasting House.

Jersey Boys is based around the lives of 60s pop legends Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. Their songs are the classics we all grew up with, including Sherry, Big Girls Don't Cry, Walk Like a Man, Rag Doll, Let's Hang On, Bye Bye Baby, Working My Way Back to You and many, many others.

By Karen Knowles

We arrived at Piccadilly Theatre in our posh frocks, having just enjoyed afternoon tea at The Waldorf, and settled down to enjoy the show with drinks delivered to our seats through a handy service called Ordertorium. What a great way to beat the queues to the bar. You can either download the free app and place an order on your phone or wave a menu in the air and someone will come and serve you.

Legendary

Michael Watson has the perfect voice and stature to play Frankie and heads a strong cast. No wonder it has drawn stars like The Hoff and even the legendary Valli himself to see the show. It's a belter.

It had been a busy day. First stop was the world-famous Kew Gardens. Being

on a coach was a bonus because we were dropped at the door which was good because it was raining heavily. Kew is a world leader in plant science and conservation and the sheer size of the place was amazing.


It was too wet for the treetop walkway. Instead we toured the vast site on the Kew Explorer land train.

Our accommodation during our two-night stay was at Tower Hotel which overlooks Tower Bridge from where there are great views of The Shard and the Tower of London and only a two-minute stroll from St Katharine Docks where there are dozens of restaurants, pubs and cafes.

If you like your breaks to be stress-free, coach trips are just the ticket. On our journey from Tower Bridge that morning we were caught up in a jam but the driver's local knowledge meant he did a clever detour and still arrived on schedule. Our final

stop was a tour of the BBC. The sun was shining and I really enjoyed the 45-minute journey through the City and into the West End. The seats were comfortable and panoramic windows provided bird's eye views. Being so high up, it was probably the most I have ever seen of London in one go. We saw where the Great Fire of London started, the Millennium Bridge and St Paul's Cathedral.



The BBC tour includes plenty of fun, hands-on stuff, including the chance to read the news and make a short radio play, complete with sound effects. Through floor length windows we watched journalists at work in the state-of-the-art newsroom and visited The One Show studio, taking it in turns to sit on the famous sofa. We even spotted the odd celebrity, including Fiona Bruce filming outside. It was a fascinating behind-the-scenes tour of a much-loved British institution.



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CHOICE



Ian McKellen

The Dresser (BBC2, 9pm)
Drama based on Ronald Harwood's successful play, about the working relationship between an ageing actor and head of a touring Shakespearean theatre company, and his personal assistant. Set against the backdrop of a production of Lear and the Fool during the Blitz, the leading light's work and reputation begin to deteriorate as the situation reaches crisis point. Starring Anthony Hopkins, Emily Watson, Ian McKellen, Sarah Lancashire, Vanessa Kirby, Edward Fox, Tom Brooke, John Ashton, Ian Conningham, Annalisa Rossi, Helen Bradbury, Carl Sanderson, Matthew Cottle and Martin Chamberlain.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) 12.00 BBC News; Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 12.50 Saturday Sportsday. 1.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.30 World Gymnastics Championships. Live coverage of day nine of the competition from SSE Hydro Arena in Glasgow. **4.15 Final Score. 5.25 BBC News. 5.35 Regional Programme. 5.45** **Pointless Celebrities.**
6.35 Strictly Come Dancing. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkler present this year's Halloween special, as the 11 remaining couples dress up in spooky attire for another ballroom battle. After another proce-ability pair was knocked out last week, judges Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell are the ones to impress, and the dancers must give their best performances in a bid to get their names near the top of the leaderboard. The two lowest scoring couples will perform again in the dance off, and another pair will be leaving on tomorrow night's show.
8.15 Doctor Who. The Zygons have been living in secret on Earth, unknown and unseen – until now. When Osgood is kidnapped by a rogue gang of the shapeshifting aliens, the Doctor, Clara and UNIT must scatter across the world in a bid to set her free. But will they reach her in time, and can they stop an uprising before it's too late?
9.05 Casualty. An unlikely patient arrives in the Emergency Department. Jacob learns that there is no justice. Cal falls in love with his estranged daughter and Connie asks for a report on Alicia.
9.55 The National Lottery Live. The all-important winning numbers are revealed.
10.05 BBC News: Weather.
10.25 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Chelsea v Liverpool at Stamford Bridge and Crystal Palace v Manchester United at Selhurst Park; National Lottery Update.
11.50 The Apprentice. The contestants are instructed to tap into one of the UK's biggest markets. (R)
12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.55 BBC News.

BBC2

8.05 Film: The Man in the White Suit. (1951) **9.30 Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **10.30 Animal Park. (R) 11.00 Animal SOS. (R) 11.30 Animal SOS. (R) 12.00 My Life on a Plate. (R) 12.45 My Life on a Plate. (R) 1.30 Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) 2.00 Comedians Talking Pictures. 2.35 Film: Lucky Jim. (1957) Comedy, starring Ian Carmichael. 4.10 Film: Whisky Galore! (1949) 5.30 Escape to the Continent. (R)
6.30 Flog It! Michael Baggot and Will Axon uncover valuable items in Ashbourne, Derbyshire, including a ghoulish object that could put bidders off at auction. Paul Martin visits Chatsworth House where he examines the life of Georgiana, the notorious fifth Duchess of Devonshire. (R)
7.30 Great Continental Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo experiences first-hand Italy's "need for speed" in a state-of-the-art Maserati sports car, and discovers how the leaning tower of Pisa was rescued from near collapse. In Carrara, he finds out how the marble used by Michelangelo is still being quarried and is invited to chip away at a contemporary sculpture. Moving on to Bologna, the former politician embarks on a doomed search for spaghetti bolognese before being taught how to prepare a tagliatelle al ragu. Finally, he lets the wind rush through his hair on a high-speed boat trip across Lake Garda. (R)
8.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring decides the platoon needs a mascot for a big parade and plumps for a ram, but catching a suitable candidate proves easier said than done. (R)
9.00 Film: The Dresser. Drama based on Ronald Harwood's successful play, about the working relationship between an ageing actor and head of a touring Shakespearean theatre company, and his personal assistant. Set against the backdrop of a production of Lear and the Fool during the Blitz, the leading light's work and reputation begin to deteriorate as the situation reaches crisis point. Starring Anthony Hopkins and Ian McKellen.
10.45 Formula 1: Mexico Grand Prix – Qualifying Highlights.
12.00 Film: Fright Night. (2011) 1.50 Film: Horror Express. (1972) 3.15 This is BBC Two.**

ITV

**6.00 CITY: Bottom Knockout Street. 6.10 Bottom Knockout Street. (R) 6.25 Bottom Knockout Street. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 7.05 Signed Stories. (R) 7.10 Sooty. (R) 7.25 Super 4. (R) 7.40 Adventure Time. 8.00 Marvel Avengers Assemble. 8.30 Thunderbirds Are Go. 9.00 Jessie. 9.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 10.15 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 11.15 ITV News; Weather. 11.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.30 Downtown Abbey. (R) 1.30 The X Factor. (R) 3.00 Rugby World Cup. Coverage of the final (Kick-off 4.00pm).
6.45 Regional Programme; Weather. 6.50 ITV News; Weather.
7.00 The Chase: Celebrity Special. Bradley Walsh presents as Good Morning Britain's Ranvir Singh, journalist John Sergeant, ex-rugby international Ugo Monye and TV presenter Mariella Frostrup pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.
8.00 The X Factor. Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present the first of this year's live shows. The 12 remaining acts compete for the chance to make it through to the live final later this year, hoping to impress the judges enough to stay on the show. Simon Cowell has the Overs, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini the Groups, Nick Grimshaw the Boys, and Rita Ora the Girls. However, the standard is high, which is sure to cause drama and disagreements among the judges, and tomorrow's show will see the first act eliminated after a sing-off.
10.25 The Jonathan Ross Show. The hosts welcomes guests Priscilla Presley, Elvis Costello and Rob Beckett for another no-holds-barred bout of questioning, and there is music by Caravan Palace.
11.30 ITV News; Weather.
11.45 Rugby World Cup Highlights. Action from the final, which took place at Twickenham, as the successors to New Zealand were crowned.
12.45 Jackpot247. Interactive gaming. 3.00 Show Me the Telly. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

**6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.40 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.05 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.30 Ben Nevis Braveheart Triathlon. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Frasier. (R) 10.00 Frasier. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. 11.30 The Big Bang Theory. 12.00 The Simpsons. (R) 12.30 The Simpsons. (R) 1.00 The Simpsons. (R) 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Ascot. Wetherby and Down Royal. 3.55 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.25 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.30 Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.00 Come Dine with Me. It is the final day in Perth, and Craig's turn to throw a dinner party. He hopes that his land and sea menu will see him score highly, but Daniel and Jenna's quarrel continues. (R)
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud revisits an experimental amphibious house built on a small island on the Thames in Buckinghamshire, to discover how well the unique floating house performs. (R)
8.00 How to Be Queen: 63 Years and Counting. A panel of leading royal watchers assesses how the Queen has retained her place in the nation's affections, after 63 years on the throne, which have made her the longest-serving British monarch in history. The programme explores what she has learned from her family's mistakes, revealing the top 10 secrets of Her Majesty's success and how to survive on the British throne.
9.30 It Was Alright in the 1970s. Matt Lucas narrates another look back at TV shows from past decades, based on the theme of living dangerously in the 1970s. Last in the series.
10.30 TFI Friday. Chris Evans welcomes guests including Cheryl Fernandez-Versini and Duran Duran to his lively entertainment show. Plus, music by Eagles of Death Metal and Foals. (R)
11.35 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Team captains Jon Richardson and Sean Lock are joined by Johnny Vegas and Romesh Ranganathan, while Josie Long is in Dictionary Corner. (R)
12.40 Fargo. (R) 1.50 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) 2.50 Hollywood. (R) 5.00 River Cottage Bites. (R)**

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! 8.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. 9.30 The Saturday Show. 11.30 The Gadget Show. (R) 12.30 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 1.25 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 2.25 Film: The Ghost of Greville Lodge. (2000) An orphan staying at his great-uncle's haunted house finds himself caught up in the middle of events from the past. Supernatural family drama, starring Jon Newman and George Cole. 4.10 Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. 4.40 Now That's Funny! 5.40 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)
6.30 Film: Superman III. (1983) The Man of Steel battles an evil tycoon, who has recruited a computer genius to aid his schemes for world domination. Together the villains hatch a plan to dispose of Superman once and for all – but instead of killing the superhero, he accidentally unveils his dark side. Comic-book adventure sequel, starring Christopher Reeve, Richard Pryor, Robert Vaughn and Margot Kidder. Edited for language.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's matches, including Birmingham City v Wolverhampton Wanderers at St Andrew's and Sheffield Wednesday v Nottingham Forest at Hillsborough, both of which took place in the Championship. There is also action from Walsall v Gillingham in League One, and Leyton Orient v Accrington Stanley in League Two.
10.25 Film: The Cabin in the Woods. (2012) Five students in a remote house are attacked by supernatural forces, but discover that something far stranger is at work. Horror, starring Kristen Connolly and Chris Hemsworth.
12.15 Film: White Noise. (2005) A man becomes obsessed with the notion that the spirit of his dead wife can contact him via electronic equipment. Supernatural thriller, starring Michael Keaton and Chandra West. 1.55 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. 4.00 Gift of Life. Cystic fibrosis sufferer Holly works through a "bucket list" as she waits for a double lung transplant, while three-year-old Ayana awaits an urgent heart transplant. (R)**

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D **7.15** Top Gear **8.15** Don't Tell the Bride **9.15** Russell Howard's Good News **10.15 Film: Hannibal Rising (2007) 12.10 Family Guy 2.15 Together 2.45 Rent a Cop 3.15 Asian Provocateur 3.45 Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D 4.00 Close**
BBC Four
7.00 The Mystery of Rome's X Tomb **8.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **9.00** Arne Dahl: Hidden Numbers – Part One **10.00** Arne Dahl: Hidden Numbers – Part Two **11.00** Looking for Mr Bond: 007 at the BBC **12.00** Girl in a Band: Tales from the Rock 'n' Roll Front Line **1.00** Girls in Bands at the BBC **2.00** Top of the Pops: 1980 **2.35** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **3.35** Close
ITV2
2.20 You've Been Framed: Halloween Special **3.25** Film: The Little Vampire (2000) **5.20** Film: Scooby-Doo (2002) **7.10** Film: Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (2004) **9.00** Film: Scary Movie V (2013) **10.45** Celebrity Juice: Halloween Special **11.35** Release the Hounds: Famous and Freaked **12.30** Tricked: Fright Night **1.30** The Almost Impossible Gameshow **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
3.00 Agatha Christie's Marple **5.00** Lewis **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Lewis **12.05** Inspector Morse **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
12.45 Darts: European Championship Live **5.00** Pawn Stars **6.00** Storage Wars: Texas **7.00** Darts: European Championship Live. Day two from Hasselt, Belgium. **11.00** Film: Universal Soldier: Day of Reckoning (2012) **1.15** The Cycle Show **2.20** Highway Patrol **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
3.00 How I Met Your Mother **3.30** Film: Aliens in the Attic (2009) **5.15** Rude (ish) The Short **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Salt (2010) **11.00** Gogglebox **12.40** The Inbetweeners **1.45** The IT Crowd **2.45** New Girl **3.10** The New Normal **3.30** The Mindy Project **3.55** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.20** The Goldbergs
Film4
11.00 Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules (2011) **1.00** Gulliver's Travels (2010) **2.40** Johnny English Reborn (2011) **4.45** Coraline (2009) **7.00** The Addams Family (1991) **9.00** Bram Stoker's Dracula (1992)

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CHOICE



David Attenborough

The Hunt (BBC1, 9pm)
New series. Wildlife series examining the challenges predators face as they stalk their prey, and revealing how it is far more common for hunts to end in failure. The first episode demonstrates how leopards use stealth and concealment to get close to their prey, while African wild dogs have to work as a team. The programme also features footage of killer whales, which rely on their intelligence, Nile crocodiles that can wait years between meals, spiders able to spin 25 foot webs and amur falcons, which travel 16,000 miles every year to hunt insects. Narrated by David Attenborough.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.35 Match of the Day. (R) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. 11.00 Regional Programme. 12.15 Bargain Hunt.** (R) **1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 2.15 Cat We'll for Less? (R) 3.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 4.00 Points of View. 4.15 Songs of Praise. 4.50 Pointless Celebrities. (R) 5.35 BBC News. 5.50 Regional Programme.**
6.00 Countryfile's Ramble for Children In Need. A special extended episode showcasing people around the country who have gone on lengthy country walks to raise money for the charity event. Matt Baker and a severely visually impaired girl climb a mountain in Snowdonia, Ellie Harrison makes a six-mile trek along the Jurassic Coast with a teenager who lost her father to cancer, Adam Henson goes hiking in the peak district with members of the Sheffield Young Carers project, Anita Rani joins hundreds of viewers in Windsor Great Park, and Tom Heap finds out about sponsored rambles across Northern Ireland. Including Weather For The Week Ahead.
7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present the results of last night's show. Plus, James Morrison performs his new song Demons and the professionals perform a group routine.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the second of two episodes from Bolsover Castle in Derbyshire. Items brought in to be valued include a painting by DH Lawrence, a broken pot with a connection to the abolition of slavery, a 19th-century pistol, a collection of vintage hats, a complete set of Famous Five books and a rare jade pendant dug up in the garden of a 17th-century house.
9.00 The Hunt. New series. Series following predators as they stalk their prey. The first episode features leopards, crocodiles, killer whales and wild dogs. Narrated by David Attenborough.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Formula 1: Mexico Grand Prix - Highlights.
12.00 Citizen Khan. (R) 12.30 Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.35 BBC News.

BBC2

**6.00 This Is BBC Two. 6.30 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) 7.15 The Big Allotment Challenge. (R) 8.15 Countryfile. (R) 9.15 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 10.45 My Life on a Plate. (R) 11.30 My Life on a Plate. (R) 12.15 MOTD Extra. 1.00 FA Cup: The Road to Wembley. (R) 1.30 World Gymnastics Championships. Live coverage of the tenth and final day from SSE Hydro Arena in Glasgow. 4.45 Rugby League.
7.00 Caribbean with Simon Reeve. Simon visits Barbados and St Vincent, before examining the mismanagement of Venezuela's natural resources and spending time with the Kogi people in Colombia. (R)
8.00 Earth's Wildest Waters: The Big Fish. Ben Fogle takes the five remaining anglers to Costa Rica. They start out fishing close to shore, before setting out into the Pacific, where hundreds of species of fish live.
9.00 Britain's Ultimate Pilots: Inside the RAF. The Red Arrows continue to have bad luck with the weather. The RAF's fastest jet appears in a display over Bournemouth and the pilots receive some shocking news. Last in the series.
10.00 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, including Southampton v Bournemouth - the first-ever top-flight meeting between the two south coast clubs.
11.00 Family Guy. Chris gets teased at school for his budget-brand trainers, and tries to steal money from his parents so he can bring his image up to scratch. Meg, however, witnesses his misdeeds.
11.20 Family Guy. Lois is forced to find a job when the family's domestic finances are stretched and is "discovered" by a voiceover talent agent who runs an adult-only phone line.
11.45 Top Coppers. Rust's twin brother Vince escapes from prison, and plots to take his sibling's place at the JCPD. Police drama spoof, starring Steen Skalkoupolous and John Kearns. (R)
12.15 NFL Highlights. Kansas City Chiefs v Detroit Lions. **1.15 Film: The Abominable Snowman.** (1957) **2.40 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 3.35 Holby City. (R) 4.35 This Is BBC Two.****

ITV

**6.00 CITY: Bottom Knockers Street. 6.10 Bottom Knockers Street. (R) 6.25 Bottom Knockers Street. 6.40 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.55 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 7.05 Share a Story. 7.10 Sooty. 7.25 Super 4. 7.40 Matt Hatter Chronicles. 8.00 Marvel Avengers Assemble. 8.30 Fish Hooks. 8.45 Fish Hooks. 9.00 Horrible Science. 9.25 Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 11.25 ITV News: Weather. 11.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.40 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 1.45 All Star Family Fortunes. (R) 2.25 The X Factor. (R) 4.50 Film: Everything or Nothing: The Untold Story of James Bond. (2012) Premiere. Documentary about the making of the James Bond films.
6.35 Regional Programme: Weather. 6.45 ITV News: Weather.
7.00 Jekyll and Hyde. Robert goes looking for answers in his grandfather's house, and saves the life of a man with connections to his family. Ravi braves the undead to bring news from Ceylon.
8.00 The X Factor. Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present the results of last night's live shows, with the lowest scoring acts being challenged to take part in a sing-off to avoid elimination.
9.00 Downton Abbey. The Crawleys watch Henry compete in a motor racing event, an occasion that leaves Mary reeling. Violet hatches a plan which surprises the family and delights Miss Denker, and learns more about Amelia's intentions in befriending Isobel. Moseley and Daisy rise to the challenges of examination day, Andy's secret is brought to light, Thomas feels isolated, and Mrs Patmore and Mrs Hughes teach Carson a lesson.
10.05 ITV News: Weather.
10.20 Bond Girls Are Forever. A bevy of Bond girls reveal what it's like to win a coveted role as the suave superspy's love interest. With contributions from Honor Blackman, Halle Berry and Ursula Andress. (R)
11.20 The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (R)
12.15 Jackpot247. 3.00 Motorsport UK. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)****

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.40 Cycling: Six Day London. 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.05 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 Film: The Legend of Zorro. (2005) Swashbuckling adventure sequel, starring Antonio Banderas. **3.00 Film: The Core. (2003) Sci-fi thriller, starring Aaron Eckhart. **4.50 Channel 4 News.**
6.05 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. Sara Damergh helps Liverpool couple Peter and Sue Keegan find a home in Sarasota, Florida, on their budget of £190,000.
7.00 Restoring Britain's Landmarks. Alastair Dick-Cleland oversees the restoration of a famous old lighthouse on Lundy Island, while John Everts hand-crafts three Georgian fireplaces for Belmont House in Lyme Regis, but he has to ensure he remains within budget. In Fox Hall in Sussex, Anna Keay reveals the must-have gadget for the Georgian aristocrat, looking at why it took thirty years, and the help of Big Ben's old engineer to restore it. (R)
8.00 Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales travel from Birmingham to Braunston to attend a festival of vintage canal boats, aided on the tricky journey by their son Sam and Juliet. Timothy's daughter from his first marriage. Along the way, they meet a 78-year-old boatman, who reveals how he was born on a canal boat, and unveil a plaque dedicated to a woman who dedicated her life to preserving Britain's canals.
9.00 Homeland. Carrie finds the answers she seeks continue to elude her as she ends up in an unexpected situation. Meanwhile, Saul and Allison run an operation.
10.05 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)
11.10 Film: Warm Bodies. (2013) A zombie falls in love with a woman after eating her boyfriend's brain, and starts to regain human feelings. Romantic comedy horror, starring Nicholas Hoult.
1.00 Grand Designs Australia. 1.55 Obsessive Compulsive Cleaners. (R) 2.50 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.40 Food Unwrapped. (R)**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. 6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 6.20 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 6.35 Bob the Builder. (R) 6.45 Ticky Toc. (R) 6.55 Zack and Quack. (R) 7.10 Make Way for Noddy. (R) 7.20 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.35 Little Princess. (R) 7.45 Pip Ahoy! (R) 8.00 Blaze and the Monster Machines. 8.20 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 8.40 Wanda and the Alien. (R) 8.55 Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) 9.10 Jelly Jamm. (R) 9.30 LazyTown. (R) 9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. 10.30 Football League Tonight. (R) 11.55 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 12.55 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 1.50 Ice Road Truckers. (R) 2.50 Film: Haunted Honeymoon. (1986) Comedy, starring George C. Scott. **4.25 Film: High Spirits. (1988) Supernatural comedy, starring Peter O'Toole.
6.15 Film: Addams Family Values. (1993) Spooky couple Gomez and Morticia hire a nanny to look after their new baby son - and stop him suffering an early death at the hands of his jealous elder siblings. Romance soon blossoms between the new childminder and Uncle Fester, but he does not realise she is planning to kill him once she has got hold of the family fortune. Comedy sequel, starring Anjelica Huston, Raul Julia, Christopher Lloyd, Christina Ricci and Joan Cusack.
7.55 5 News Weekend.
8.00 Film: Arachnophobia. (1990) A mild-mannered doctor sets up practice in a small town, but a cloud gathers over his career due to a series of unexplained deaths. Before long, he has to convince the locals that a horde of venomous spiders is responsible and confront his intense fear of arachnids into the bargain. Comedy horror, starring Jeff Daniels, John Goodman, Julian Sands and Brian McNamara. Edited for language.
10.05 The Haunting of Radcliffe House. A couple and their children move to an estate on the Yorkshire moors and are plagued by a series of paranormal events. Supernatural drama, with Olivia Williams and Matthew Modine. (R)
12.00 Film: Poltergeist. (1982) Horror, starring JoBeth Williams. **1.55 SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R)****

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Top Gear. 8.00 Don't Tell the Bride. 9.00 Russell Howard's Good News 10.00 Film: Halloween: Resurrection (2002) 11.25 Russell Howard's Good News Extra 12.10 Family Guy 12.55 American Dad! 1.15 Rent a Cop. 1.45 Russell Howard's Good News 2.15 World's Worst Place to Be a Woman - Stacey Dooley Investigates 3.10 The Fear 3.40 Sunny D 4.00 Close
BBC Four
7.00 London on Film: The West End 7.30 Jacobi on Garrick: Godfather of the British Stage 8.00 Ronald Harwood in Conversation with Richard Eyre 9.00 Knights of Classic Drama at the BBC 10.00 Charles Darwin and the Tree of Life 11.00 Arena: Screen Goddesses 12.00 Natural World: Grizzlies of Alaska 1.00 Timeshift: The British Space Race 1.40 Bulseyes and Beer - When Darts Hit Britain: Timeshift 2.40 Ronald Harwood in Conversation with Richard Eyre 3.40 Close
ITV2
1.30 The Almost Impossible Gameshow 2.30 Totally You've Been Framed! 2.35 Film: Scooby-Doo (2002) 5.20 Film: Space Jam (1996) 7.05 Film: Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) 9.00 The Xtra Factor 10.00 The Ty and Ky Show 10.30 All About the Bants 11.00 Film: The Faculty (1998) 1.10 The Ty and Ky Show 1.35 All About the Bants 2.00 The Vamps: The Hot Desk 2.10 Teleshopping
ITV3
2.50 Lewis 4.50 Midsomer Murders 6.55 Sunday Night at the Palladium 7.55 Wycleif 9.00 The Nation's Favourite Elvis Song 10.30 Birds of a Feather 11.00 A Touch of Frost 1.10 Film: The Rebel (1961) 2.55 Doctor at Large
ITV4
11.45 Storage Wars: New York 12.45 Darts: European Championship Live. 5.00 Rugby World Cup Highlights 6.00 Storage Wars: Texas 7.00 Darts: European Championship Live. 11.00 Film: Tremors (1989) 12.55 Whisker Wars 1.55 I Want That Car
E4
4.35 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 Film: Marley and Me (2008) 10.20 The Inbetweeners 11.30 The IT Crowd 12.30 Screen Queens 1.35 Drifters
Film4
1.10 Escape from the Planet of the Apes (1971) 1.00 Tooth Fairy (2010) 3.05 Sword of Sherwood Forest (1960) 4.40 Five Children and It (2004) 6.25 Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps (2010) 9.00 Friends with Benefits (2011)

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Deadly Revenge, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman starts a relationship with a seemingly perfect man who has an intense relationship with his mother. She discovers his only previous girlfriend died mysteriously, and becomes consumed with paranoia as she investigates what became of her. Thriller, starring Alicia Ziegler and Donna Mills. (2013)

TUESDAY
Blackthorn, BBC1, 11.45pm
Butch Cassidy lives in secluded exile in a remote Bolivian village, having survived his supposed last stand. After years away from home, he decides the time has come to return to his family in America, but on the way, he runs into an ambitious young outlaw and is drawn into one last criminal adventure. Western, starring Sam Shepard. (2011)



Erased, Thursday, Channel 5, 10pm

WEDNESDAY
Thirteen Days, BBC1, 11.35pm
Fact-based drama covering the events of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, when the US and Soviet Union confronted each other with nuclear arsenals primed. An American spy plane observes the Russians installing ballistic missiles in Cuba – and over the next 13 days mind games are played out in Washington amid unbearable tension, as President Kennedy comes into conflict with the warmongering military. Starring Kevin Costner and Bruce Greenwood. (2000)

THURSDAY
Erased, Channel 5, 10pm
Premiere. An ex-CIA operative discovers his former employers want him dead, and have erased all records of his existence. Action thriller, with Aaron Eckhart and Olga Kurylenko. (2012)

FRIDAY
Cemetery Junction, BBC1, 11.50pm
A young man in 1970s Reading starts to question what he wants out of life, but finds his friends happy with their lot. He starts a new job selling insurance door to door, only to run into an old girlfriend – who he learns is the daughter of his new boss and engaged to the co-worker showing him the ropes. Comedy drama, starring Christian Cooke. (2010)

Joanna is All Shook Up in her personal journey

If he had lived, Elvis Presley would now be 80 years old.

It may be hard to picture the King as an octogenarian, but his fans do have plenty of other iconic images to remember him by. Some will always see him as the young, swivel-hipped rocker who took audiences by storm in the 1950s, while others picture the leather-clad veteran of the '68 comeback special, or the showman of the Vegas years.

For Joanna Lumley, who has been a loyal subject of the King ever since she bought a copy of Hound Dog, his look was part of his enduring appeal, and has even been an influence on one of her own most famous performances.

She says: "The thing about being a fan of Elvis is that you just love everything about him. I loved the way he looked, the way he sang, the way he dressed, the photographs of him, the way he performed on stage...and I loved his smile and his sense of humour.

"I love the fact that he never really grinned huge cheesy grins, he had a special Elvis grin, and I borrowed that for Patsy in Absolutely Fabulous...a little tribute to Elvis."

But now she is on a mission to put aside her own image of him and get to the truth behind the legend.

She explains: "My Elvis was this young one, before the jumpsuits and the big lifestyle. But what was he really like? If my dream had come true and he had come over to England and I had met him, I wonder would I have liked the boy buried underneath the myth? I'm going in search of the youth catapulted to fame and fortune."

As you might expect, it's a journey that takes in a trip to his home, Graceland, where she receives a personal tour from Elvis's ex-wife, Priscilla Presley.

Joanna says: "The TV room, the living room, Elvis's jungle-themed den, are virtually untouched. His mother's bedroom is still as it was.

It's open to the public, but tonight, Priscilla and I will be alone, with her memories."

However, the presenter soon discovers that Graceland is very different from the rocker's first home, as she visits a shack that his father, Vernon, built for the family in Tupelo, Mississippi. "They were dirt poor," Joanna points out. "It's extraordinary to think that this was where he was born."

There will be more revelations as she talks to his family and friends, charts his rise to fame, and pays a visit to legendary Sun Studios, where he made his first groundbreaking recordings. She also learns more about how his fans and those close to him reacted to his tragic death in 1977.

While Joanna will never get to meet the man himself, she discovers that his legacy does live on, as she calls in on another famous studio, Abbey Road, where a 'new' Elvis album is being made.



Joanna Lumley, Elvis and Me, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Simply Nigella, BBC2, 8.30pm

Fed up with a cereal for breakfast? Then chances are you need to spice up the most important meal of the day with a little inspiration. Try avocado toast with radishes instead. Yes, it might sound a little out there, but as Nigella Lawson proves in this new series, anything goes when it comes to making tasty and original dishes. The journalist and presenter reveals that what people cook and how they prepare it really can make them feel better and more alive. Also on the menu this week is a Thai noodle dish with cinnamon and prawns, and a laid-back family supper of seeded lamb ribs, served with a feta and avocado salad. And if that leaves you hungry for more, she will also be whipping up warm-spiced cauliflowers and chicksalad as well as an apricot almond cake. Bon appetit.

TUESDAY
The Great Pottery Throw Down, BBC2, 9pm

New series. Sara Cox invites 10 home pottery enthusiasts to gather in Stoke-on-Trent, where they take part in a competitive throwing contest to determine which of them should be named Top Potter. Through a series of 18 challenges, taking

place over the course of 35 days, the competitors will be judged on their craft skills and creativity by ceramic artist Kate Malone and master potter Keith Brymer Jones. The competition gets under way as the amateurs take part in a four-day assignment, in which they must produce a set of stackable kitchen bowls from lumps of earthenware clay. They also face a Spot Test, in which they must attach handles to 20 mugs within a strict time limit, and a Throw Down, where the judges ask them to make as many egg-cups as they can within 20 minutes.

WEDNESDAY
Dominic Sandbrook: Let Us Entertain You, BBC2, 9pm

New series. Dominic Sandbrook explores British post-war culture, arguing that although it is indebted to the Victorian past, it is a crucial part of modern identity. In the first edition, Dominic examines the way in which culture has become one of Britain's newest exports, claiming that it is an industry in itself, in the same way as shipbuilding and textile production. He suggests that cultural revolution has occurred in the old industrial regions, taking influence from

the former connections of the Empire, as well as the global cultural capital, London.

My Psychic Life, Channel 4, 10pm

Documentary following psychic mediums in the north of England, who reveal what life is like for those who claim they can talk to the dead. Reports suggest that one in three British people have visited a clairvoyant or medium, with believers claiming it offers them solace, and others insisting it is hocus pocus. In terms of business, romance, or simply a trip to the shops, the programme explores whether life is made any easier – or indeed more complicated – by having a supposed direct line to the spirit world.



Simply Nigella, Monday, BBC2, 8.30pm

THURSDAY
George Clarke's Amazing Spaces, Channel 4, 8pm

If you were hoping to see the last in the current run a week ago, then the scheduling folks decided to prolong the agony a little longer. Now we finally get to see the series finale, in which the amiable host meets a father and daughter who are turning an American school bus into a festival campervan. He also heads off to Germany to meet a young dad who has turned a grain silo into a home. However, the question on many a fan's lips is: will George and Will's floating beach hut work? After months of construction work, the moment of truth finally arrives as it is launched onto the open sea. However, Will has come up with a contingency plan just in case; he has added an escape pod made from an old bath.

FRIDAY
Ice Road Truckers, Channel 5, 8pm

The drivers for trucking companies VP Express and Polar Industries are put to the test when the winter presents an even bigger adversary – the Polar Vortex, bringing with it the worst winter conditions in a century. With the storm due, Lisa Kelly and Darrell Ward return to lead team Polar to victory.

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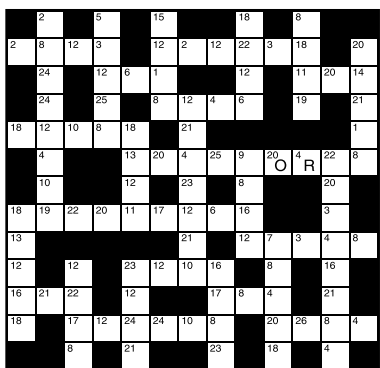
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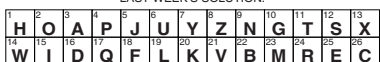
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

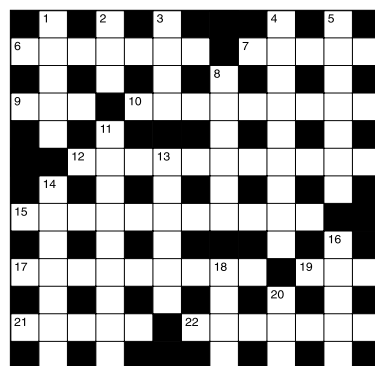
Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Had pretensions to 22 (7)
7. It is in use irregularly, this set of rooms (5)
9. Also part of 12 (3)
10. Looking for resemblance of equality in advent (9)
12. Surreptitious when short of labour? (11)
15. Tries pair on to correct breathing (11)
17. Given lodgings divided into four (9)
19. Injure animal by turning it round (3)
21. The first doctor makes a dull humming noise (5)
22. About 100 average in doctoring (7)

Down

1. Evidence of growing industry? (5)
2. The drink 19 needs at the border (3)
3. Some hope South American coin will answer (4)
4. Security man? (9)
5. Stupely Edward by being dwarfish (7)
8. Firing into the air as a result (6)
11. Taking the air with a lively result? (9)
13. Deservedly got wages (6)
14. Need again a quantity of paper (7)
16. Graduate gets song from an Asian (5)
18. Moreover not at all rough (4)
20. Bird is fashioned by 19 with this metal (3)



Quick Clues:

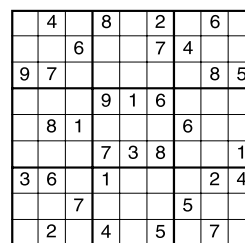
Across

6. Burdensome (7)
7. Daub (5)
9. Dandy (3)
10. Inactive (9)
12. Blessing (11)
15. Ancestor (11)
17. In want (9)
19. Play upon words (3)
21. Giver (5)
22. Beguile (7)

Down

1. Bequeath (5)
2. Attempt (3)
3. Certain (4)
4. Copy (9)
5. Soldier (7)
8. Negligent (6)
11. Translation (9)
13. Stimulate (6)
14. Liberty (7)
16. Bland (5)
18. Row (4)
20. Ocean (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

8	1	2	4	5	9	6	3	7
3	5	6	1	8	7	4	9	2
4	7	9	3	6	2	8	5	1
5	6	1	9	2	4	3	7	6
9	6	4	5	7	3	2	1	8
2	3	7	6	1	8	5	4	9
6	4	8	7	3	1	9	2	5
7	9	5	2	4	6	1	8	3
1	2	3	8	9	5	7	6	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Indisposition; 8 Phari-see; 9 Less; 10 Presto; 12 Tangle; 14 Inmate; 16 Sanity; 18 Peer; 20 Sighting; 22 Bird's-eye views. Down: 1 On the run; 2 Mitres; 3 Opus; 4 Asbestos; 5 Stolen; 6 Dons; 11 Overseer; 13 Late news; 15 Abrade; 17 Nitwit; 19 Emit; 21 Glee. QUICK - Across: 7 House-breaking; 8 Defender; 9 Wage; 10 Cattle; 12 Onrush; 14 Step up; 16 Tidbit; 18 Spur; 20 Upheaval; 22 Inadvertently. Down: 1 Forecast; 2 Ascent; 3 Abed; 4 Rearmost; 5 Skewer; 6 Snag; 11 Espoused; 13 Suittable; 15 Parade; 17 Drains; 19 Pang; 21 Hate.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. What are the international vehicle registration letters for Finland?
2. Which vegetable's scientific name is Nasturtium officinale?
3. What is the nickname of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 3 in D?
4. In which year was the first walk in space?
5. On which river does Strasbourg stand?
6. What is androphobia?
7. What instrument do you associate with Jack Teagarden?
8. On which river is the Kariba dam?
9. What is the alter ego of cartoon character Wonder Woman?
10. In what year was Dr. Crippen executed?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Under consideration; 2 Bolivar; 3 William H. Harrison; 4 Ur; 5 The Lake Poets; 6 1805; 7 The dog-star; 8 An oriental tobacco pipe; 9 New South Wales; 10 Oedipus. Niner: JUBILANCE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

45295236 gives a girl's name,
3271 gives a boy's name,
5885 gives a girl's name.



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The Poppies Weeping Window in Liverpool

Two days departing December 12

★ **PRICE FROM £99.95**

- Return coach travel
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- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Downton Abbey and Windsor at Christmas

Two days departing December 4

★ **PRICE FROM £119**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Highclere Castle
- Visit to Windsor
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

London Weekend by rail

Two days various departure dates

★ **PRICE FROM £129.95**

- Return standard class rail travel (upgrade offered)
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at a choice of four-star central London hotels
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

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Edinburgh City Break by rail

Three days various weekend departure dates

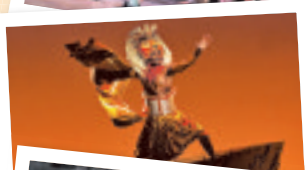
★ **PRICE FROM £109.95**

- Return standard class rail travel (upgrade offered)
- Two nights bed and breakfast accommodation at the three-star Hotel ibis Edinburgh Centre South Bridge
- Departures on Fridays and Saturdays
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

London Theatre by coach

Two days selected weekend departure dates



★ **PRICE FROM £149.95**

London is the natural home of theatre and the musical is king in the capital's world-famous West End. British musicals that prove a runaway success here often go on to triumph on Broadway and around the globe.

The winning combination of engaging writing, captivating stage design and commanding performance has enabled London theatres to achieve box office smashes time and time again. And it's the songs that make people return to the capital a number of times and some of the most well-known tunes have become part of the national canvas.

There are two options travelling by coach from which to choose, Saturday Night Theatre or a Theatre Weekend with Dinner.

The Saturday Night Theatre break, from £149.95, includes a ticket for the evening show, whereas the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option starts from £159.95 and includes an evening meal following the matinee performance.

Both trips include return coach travel, a choice of theatre ticket from an extensive list of shows, overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in an outer-London four-star hotel, along with some free time in the capital for shopping or sightseeing.

Pick-ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

*The from price and price bands vary for each show - see brochure/web page for details.

Single room supplements apply and are subject to availability.

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782)

Madeira Winter Sun

Eight days various departure dates between November and March 2016



★ **PRICE FROM £659**

Experience a balmy Mediterranean style climate on the spectacular island of Madeira during the winter season.

Enjoy a tour of Funchal, taking in the market, the Patricio and Gouveia embroidery workshop, Se Cathedral and the Pereira d'Oliveira wine cellar, where visitors can sample four Madeiran wines. The city is also known for famous people who have lived there, such as Christopher Columbus, Winston Churchill, and more recently, Cristiano Ronaldo.

During the half day trip to the botanical garden of Quinta do Bom Sucesso, take in the enormous variety of tropical plants and birds and see Colombo, a resident 47-year-old giant tortoise, at Quinta Jardins do Lago.

Spend a full day touring western Madeira and see some popular tourist sights, such as the wine-making village of Estreito de Camara de Lobos, the church in Ribeira Brava and the beautiful villages of Ponta do Sol and Madalena do Mar. Also included is a visit to a banana plantation, the Paul da Serra central plateau, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the only flat part of the island.

Head north-west to see the famous lava swimming pools of Porto Moniz and through the tunnels and along coastal cliffs to the Sao Vicente.

INFO

- Return flights
- Seven nights full-board accommodation
- Included drinks during meals (limited to aperitifs, local wine and beer, soft drinks and local spirits)
- Tours of Funchal and Western Madeira
- Visit to Quintas do Bom Sucesso botanical gardens
- Services of a tour manager/ English speaking representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Holidays (ABTA V4782 ATOL 6081)

Pick of the week

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A lovely 2 bedroom end terrace in this very popular location close to Halesowen Town Centre and ideal for the number 9 bus into Stourbridge and Birmingham. Featuring a lounge, fitted dining kitchen with appliances, refitted bathroom and shower, central heating & double glazing, private rear garden, available soon. EPC: TBC



DUDLEY, St Catherine's Close£650 pcm+Fees
Set in a quiet cul-de-sac is this lovely presented 3 bedroom modern semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: living room, fitted kitchen with appliances/dining area, 3 good size bedrooms, house bathroom with shower, rear garden and driveway parking for up to 3 cars. Early viewing recommended. Available end of October. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Nimmings Road£625 pcm+Fees
Large end terraced property close to Blackheath Town Centre & Rowley Regis Train Station. Lounge, fitted kitchen/dining area, 3 large bedrooms, bathroom with shower, central heating, double glazing, front & rear gardens with garage to rear of property and driveway parking for up to 3 cars. EPC: D



NEW

HALESOWEN, Century Way£595 pcm+Fees
Lovely fully furnished modern large ground floor apartment suitable for 2 sharers. Open plan lounge/fully fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, family bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking space. Available mid November. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Margaret Avenue£575 pcm+Fees
This unfurnished mid terraced property is ideally located for local shops and bus links into Birmingham City Centre and Stourbridge. The property features lounge, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs w.c. 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower over bath. Also benefits from double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden and driveway parking. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Belgrave Road£550 pcm+Fees
Situated in this convenient location close to local amenities and good transport links, this terraced property briefly comprises of 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms and refitted bathroom. The property further benefits from having central heating, double glazing and pleasant rear garden. Available Now. EPC: D



NEW

HALESOWEN, Wright Street£495 pcm+Fees
Close to Halesowen Town Centre and Tenfilds Primary School. This end terraced home features gas central heating, cosy living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden, on road parking. Available now. Short term let for 6 months, possibly longer. EPC: E



CRADLEY HEATH, Clyde Street£495 pcm+Fees
Conveniently situated for local shops in Old Hill and the train station. Featuring 2 bedroom terraced house with 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 good size double bedrooms, carpeted cellar, rear garden with decking. Available soon. EPC: E



NEW

QUINTON, College Road £495 pcm+Fees
Large flat available above a shop close to direct bus links to Birmingham comprising of lounge, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, 2 large double bedrooms plus extra study/storage room, white bathroom with shower, electric heating. Available Now. EPC: G



NEW

QUINTON, Nailers Close £495 pcm+Fees
Set in a cul-de-sac in a sought after location. This 2 bedroom house features fitted breakfast kitchen with integrated oven/hob and free-standing fridge/freezer, lounge, 2 bedrooms both with laminate flooring, bathroom with shower over bath, driveway parking and front and rear gardens. Also benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Whitehall Court£495 pcm+Fees
Centrally located to Halesowen Town Centre is this well presented 1st floor flat with private entrance, hallway, kitchen with appliances, living room, bathroom with newly fitted shower, 2 good size bedrooms, communal garden & secure parking to rear of property. Available Now. EPC: C



NEW PRICE

SEDGLEY, Tudor Vale £475 pcm+Fees
Located in this ever popular cul-de-sac is this end mews house, briefly comprising of: gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted dining kitchen, downstairs WC, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, rear garden, driveway parking, unfurnished. EPC: C



NETHERTON, Round Street£475 pcm+Fees
Set in a quiet road, is this lovely semi detached house. Featuring gas central heating, living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double and 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with shower, rear garden and driveway parking for 2 cars. In very popular area and good transport links for Merry Hill. 2 MONTHS DEPOSIT AND A GUARANTOR REQUIRED. (THE GUARANTOR MUST BE A HOME OWNER, FAMILY MEMBER AND WORKING) EPC: B



CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street£475 pcm+Fees
Situating in a quiet location, within walking distance to Old Hill town and local train station this unfurnished ground floor flat comprising electric storage heating, large living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, communal gardens, allocated parking. EPC: C



TIPTON, Ferguson Drive £460 pcm+Fees
● FULLY REDECORATED ● A lovely modern 2nd floor apartment which requires an internal viewing to appreciate the size of this fabulous apartment. Featuring 2 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower, loft space, electric storage heating, double glazing, 2 allocated parking spaces, communal gardens, internal viewing recommended. Deposit £750. EPC: C



OLDBURY, Causeway Green Road£425 pcm+Fees
This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5, briefly comprising of: gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, parking to rear, unfurnished. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Apperley Way£425 pcm+Fees
Available on a well sought after estate is this unfurnished 1st floor apartment which is well presented throughout, within walking distance to Cradley Heath train station, featuring a modern fitted kitchen, light and airy lounge, bathroom with shower, 1 double bedroom, communal drying area. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Glynn Crescent£425 pcm+Fees
A 2nd floor apartment on this popular development, having double glazing and gas central heating, the property offers lounge, open plan fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bathroom with shower. The property also benefits from a long driveway and garage. EPC: D



NEW

HALESOWEN, Somers Road£375 pcm+Fees
A 1 bedroom 1st floor apartment offering generous accommodation including: lounge with open plan kitchen, double bedroom with en-suite shower room, double glazing, communal garden, on road parking, unfurnished. EPC: G



LYE, High Street £330 pcm+Fees
Located in the centre of Lye at Lye Cross. This 2nd floor flat above shops features a large lounge, kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, and is available immediately. EPC: TBC



LYE, High Street £330 pcm+Fees
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MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417

KAREN 50, widow, likes swimming, horse riding, keep fit, call pigeon shooting, GSOH, N/S, no drinker, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415211

CURVY, farm girl at heart, 32, 5ft 10, single mum, caring kind, shy, likes walks, cooking WLTm tactile male farmer for LTR. Text only to Mailbox no: 5067001

FEMALE medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429

WIDOW 50, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5ins, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767

MARIE, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417

FEMALE 50's, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks gent with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415871

BLUE eyed female, blonde hair, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416899

LADY young at heart, nice eyes, seeks man 42-52 with good sense of humour. Text only to Mailbox No: 4881572

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AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418117

CAROL Ann, sensitive slim brunette very romantic seeks tall handsome male for fun, friendship and lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419385

VAL 41, pretty, cuddly, flirt, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416601

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you wont be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109

DIVORCED female, attractive, sensual by nature, OHAC, bored with own company, looking to make life a little more exciting with likeminded man. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419219

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985

SENSUAL tactile, attractive female, long blonde hair, blue eyes, loves travel, wining/dining, WLTm genuine male for mutual companionship. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418587

JULIE, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTm male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more. status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418007

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, widow, 50's, likes walks, sight seeing, theatre, meals out, seeks genuine, professional gent, 5ft 9ins plus to make life more enjoyable. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418615

FEMALE seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417195

SHARON, 48, tall slim attractive, live alone with no ties, love romanticising and WLTm man for good times together, maybe more. Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417751

SINGLE mom, 40yrs, small, not skinnny WLTm single dad aged 39 to 45. Text skiny to Mailbox No: 4295299

FEMALE, 36, looking for a genuine guy to wine and dine me with lots of laughter and fun times. Text only to Mailbox No: 4758012

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787

BOSTON female 56 loyal, intelligent, loves history seeks dependable humorous male for friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4751421

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787

THEA, 38, extrovert brunette, curly hair, rugby fan, WLTm genuine male who will accept her as she is. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417763

ATTRACTIVE kind, caring, single lady, loves animals, WLTm uniformed office for genuine, sincere relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417623

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

ELLEN 45, attractive, with statuesque curvy figure, looking for an uncomplicated relationship with understanding male friend. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417663

MICHELLE, 37, pretty, very fit, well travelled seeks active, broadminded male to share new experiences and adventures with. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417651

SANDY, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417581

ATTRACTIVE lady, young looking, single would love to meet uniformed officer. Must be sincere and genuine. Text only to Mailbox No: 4727985

SANDY, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417581

GINA, attractive slim blue eyed blonde, loves to cook, looking for her soul mate seeks tall male for lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773

PAULINE, 49yrs, very attractive, curvy divorcee, affectionate and fun, seeks laid back, sincere male for an uncomplicated loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418925

VIRGINIA, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418845

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LYN, 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTm similar male for companionship. Age/looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418795

SOPHIA very sensual black lady looking to acquire a new distraction with lots of adult fun thrown in for good measure. Race/age/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413399

JAN 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTm passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, widow, 50's, likes walks, sight seeing, theatre, meals out, seeks genuine, professional gent, 5ft 9ins plus to make life more enjoyable. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418615

FEMALE seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417195

SHARON, 48, tall slim attractive, live alone with no ties, love romanticising and WLTm man for good times together, maybe more. Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417751

SINGLE mom, 40yrs, small, not skinnny WLTm single dad aged 39 to 45. Text skiny to Mailbox No: 4295299

FEMALE, 36, looking for a genuine guy to wine and dine me with lots of laughter and fun times. Text only to Mailbox No: 4758012

TRACY, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787

BOSTON female 56 loyal, intelligent, loves history seeks dependable humorous male for friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4751421

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ATTRACTIVE kind, caring, single lady, loves animals, WLTm uniformed office for genuine, sincere relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417623

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

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GINA, attractive slim blue eyed blonde, loves to cook, looking for her soul mate seeks tall male for lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773

WENDY, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369

EILEEN, slim green eyed brunette likes meals out and cosy nights in, seeks tall male who would make her laugh and brighten up her day. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418347

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

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CAROL, 49, attractive, green eyed blonde, honest warm hearted, n/s with GSOH likes cinema, music, walking, meals out and travel seeking similar male. Text only to Mailbox No: 4283683

FEMALE, 50, short blond hair, blue eyes, 5ft 10, slim build, looking for a man 50-55 with hair and pepper hair and GSOH. Text only to Mailbox No: 443576

HEATHER, 34, single very attractive brunette, sensual and interesting, looking to add to life's experiences and adventures with professional male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418193

JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169

JAN, 47, once bitten twice shy! Looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensitive, discreet, OHAC, you won't be disappointed. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418089

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FEMALE seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417195

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GINA, attractive slim blue eyed blonde, loves to cook, looking for her soul mate seeks tall male for lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773

Box No: 417419

ZARA 5ft 4ins, slim, single mum, honest, caring, likes walks, seeking genuine male, 45-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417513

CARING lovely curvy female 41 seeks genuine and caring guy. Text only to Mailbox No: 472192

GINA, attractive slim blue eyed blonde, loves to cook, looking for her soul mate seeks tall male for lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417419

TRACY, 39, brunette, outgoing, down to earth, fit and active has much to offer someone special. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417417

JEAN, shy brunette with lots of love to give to the right man, seeks mature male to share relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417285

GWEN 38, large breasted, seeks Indian/Pakistani/Kurdish male for daytime fun. Can Travel/accom. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417233

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HAPPY, fit, 77yr old widow N/S 5ft 3in, GSOH, Loves travel, many interests. WLTm man with caravan/camper to share weekends/holidays. Text only to Mailbox No: 4492014

LISA, 31yr old petite bundle of fun looking for a guy, easygoing, genuine guy. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417223

FEMALE seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417195

Men seeking women

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MIKE late 60's fit, active, genuine and generous, very passive seeks assertive lady any age / looks for mutual benefits. Text only to Mailbox no: 4747481

MICHAEL, school teacher, very shy and lonely, 42yrs, own home, car, seeks genuine caring lady. Text only to Mailbox no: 415651

STOCKY, bold, unhappily married man, seeks similar very discreet female for exciting rendezvous. Text only to Mailbox no: 4757315

ATTRACTIVE tall black male would like to meet female for day time fun and discreet meetings, any age or location. Text only to Mailbox no: 5077442

MATURE male, 50, medium-build, varied interests, seeks true Christian female, 35-45, who enjoys evenings in and dining out, for friendship or possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419283

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ASX is back in contention

By John Griffiths

It's hard to come up with just one reason for the phenomenon, but there's no doubt that the car buying public's love affair with 'cross-over' vehicles has made them the biggest-sellers in the market.

It's probably a combination of purposeful looks, the high 'command' driving position and the prospect of some off-road and winter weather potential, but sales are still growing and so are the number of models available.

Mitsubishi's offering is the ASX: not new exactly, but now a second generation model with a raft of upgrades is now taking to the roads of Britain. It does stand out from the herd, not least because of its pedigree. Mitsubishi has a wealth of experience in producing four wheel drive cars and this family-orientated model is based on the same platform as the iconic, high performance Lancer Evolution.

It comes with three engine options: a 1.6 petrol, a brand new and highly efficient 1.6 turbo diesel and, in top of the range versions only, a 2.2 diesel mated to a six-speed automatic transmission.

It's front end is particularly distinctive due to its large radiator grille set in a softer, more rounded shape made largely with impact-absorbing plastic panels – saving weight and, in the worst case scenario, possibly lives as it is designed to reduce injuries in a pedestrian collision. Yet it still has the stronger lines of a tradition SUV, rather than a family hatchback on steroids. This is reinforced by the impressive ground clearance and protective black plastic panels on the lower edges. It's a full five-seater with a light and airy cabin, a family-sized boot and it is well-equipped with quality trim.

Prices are competitive, with the top of the range ZC-H – with four wheel drive, the most powerful 2.2 litre diesel and automatic transmission – at £24,899.

At the other end of the scale, the 1.6 litre, 115bhp petrol front wheel drive model comes in at a modest £14,999. The 2.2 auto is nippy with a 0 to 62mph time of 10.8 seconds, and an official average fuel consumption of 48.7mpg CO2 rating 157g/km).

During my test I managed a very reasonable 37mpg on two runs across the West Midlands in the rush hour, and 44mpg during mixed town and country driving.

Improved

Weight saving, has of course played its part in the improved performance/economy combination, as has the advanced four wheel drive system. On models which have this improved system, you'll normally be perfectly happy with the fuel-saving front wheel drive option. But if conditions get slippery you only have to press a button and you're in 'auto' mode, where torque is automatically distributed between axles according to driving style and conditions – when the front wheels start to slip, for example. Anything between two and 50 per cent of the torque can be transferred to the rear axles virtually instantly.

Press the button again and you have four wheel drive locked in, for snow or the occasion off-road foray. When a higher proportion of torque is fed to the rear,

Electric power steering and a regenerative braking system also help to save fuel.

The six-speed auto transmission has three modes: 'eco' and sport plus sport with manual changes via paddles behind the steering wheel. In sport mode, the system allows you to use the higher rev ranges before changing up, and changes down more readily, too.

But to be honest, conscious of economy I



stuck almost entirely with 'eco' mode as the 2.2 turbo diesel has plenty of low range torque and is impressively responsive to 'kick-down', allowing you to surge ahead of slower traffic.

The suspension is longer-travel and a little beefier than a standard saloon, reflecting its off-road potential, but it is well damped so it doesn't crash over badly surfaced roads.

The ASX has a longish wheelbase, relative to its size, and together with its lighter weight this has helped to sharpen up its handling. Driver and passengers sit tall with large areas of glass under that large, panoramic glass roof which adds to the feeling of space.

Air conditioning and a new entertainment, satnav and communications system based

around a centre console screen, which also shows you a rear view as soon as you select reverse. There are remote controls for the communications/stereo on the steering wheel, too, as well as the simple to operate cruise control.

The ASX was awarded a five-star EuroNCAP safety rating, helped by an array of technology to prevent or reduce the effects of a collision. This includes active stability control, traction control, hill start assist, ABS with electronic brake force distribution, emergency stop signal activation and no less than seven airbags.

It's likely the biggest seller will be Mitsubishi's new 1.6 turbo diesel, which with 112bhp and well over twice the torque of its petrol stablemate, is only fractionally behind the flag-

ship 2.2 auto in performance terms. But it's the winner in terms of fuel and tax costs with figures of 61.4mpg and 119g/km in two wheel drive versions, and 56.5mpg and 132g/km for the 4WD model.

The boot has 419 litres of space (plus an underfloor compartment) which increases to 1,193 litres if you fold down the rear seats.

The ASX has purposeful looks which help to set it apart from its growing band of competitors and the latest upgrades in economy, safety and technology have brought it back into contention with some of the newer rivals launched in the last couple of years.

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Versatility and space make Jazz big winner

By John Griffiths

Honda's baby is growing up – in more ways than one – with a new Jazz which has blossomed into one of the biggest and most versatile hatchbacks in its class.

It may be Honda's smallest car, but the all-new Jazz's interior offers the sort of space which puts some family saloons to shame, particularly if you happen to be a six-footer confined to the rear seats.

It's all down to clever packaging, as the new car is a sleeker, more aerodynamic shape and less than four inches longer than its predecessor. Higher quality materials, new technology and a more refined ride convey the feeling that this third generation car has grown up in other ways, too.

Prices range from £13,495 to £17,425 but perhaps the limiting factor is that there is only one engine option, a 1,300cc, 102bhp petrol unit.

It does come, though, with the option of a manual gearbox or a continuously variable transmission auto, which is actually more economical – enough to promise tax as well as fuel savings.

Although the engine choice was obviously made long before the controversy about diesel emissions hit the headlines, it will be interesting to see if that has any impact on Jazz sales. But maybe Honda thought that a family-sized hatchback offering average petrol usage of between 55 and 61mpg was incentive enough in this market.

The new Jazz looks sleeker, more sporty, with sculpted side panels and a bolder new front end with echoes of the larger Civic. But it's on the inside where it scores, with the use of higher grade materials, new technology on higher grade models, new seats, and, of course, the amount of extra room created in the redesign. The top of the range test car with its clear instruments and trim which combined touches of leather, chrome and high glass plastic had a more expensive feel than its actual price tag

Its 0 to 62mph acceleration time is reasonably nifty at 11.2 seconds (a fraction longer with the CVT transmission) but even when pushed hard between gears the engine remains sewing machine smooth.

Refined

Perhaps more significant is that sixth gear is almost an overdrive, so that during motorway cruising it's particularly refined for a small car: you're more likely to be aware of the gentle hiss of the large wing mirrors disrupting the airflow than of anything mechanical.

The new chassis and body are light but particularly stiff, which contributes to the low noise levels but also means the Jazz is light and responsive to steering input. Its suspension is tuned for a supple ride yet it resists the tendency to rock 'n' roll through corners, an essential in terms of ride comfort.

The rear doors are large, for easy access, and once inside even a six-footer will have head and leg room to spare.

The Jazz has Honda's trademark 'magic seat' system which means the rear seats are multi-adjustable (and can even be reclined) to juggle between the demands of cargo and passengers. It has a generous 354 litres of boot space, rising to 884 if the rear seats are folded down.

The test car was a top of the range EX Nav specification, which comes in at £16,325. With its manual transmission its official fuel average is 55.4mpg with a CO2 rating of 120g/km. But if you pay an extra £11,000 for the CVT version, you actually get a couple of extra miles per gallon and a lower CO2 rating of 114g/km, according to the official test figures.

The cleanest and greenest Jazz in the range is the entry level S model with the CVT system at £14,591, with 61.4mpg and 108g/km, which also brings it down one VED tax band (from C to B).

This base model comes with a CD/stereo with Bluetooth and remote controls on the steering wheel, electric windows, automatic lights and wipers, stop/start system and Honda's 'magic seats', (those in the rear can recline, too). Safety features such as front, side and curtain airbags, stability assist, hill start assist, city brake and electronic brake force distribution are standard across the range.

Higher up the range features such as electrically heated and adjustable mirrors, alloy wheels, parking sensors, and the Honda Connect infotainment and connectivity system, controlled by a centrally mounted seven-inch touchscreen, are added. The EX gets a rear view camera, automatic air conditioning, rear privacy glass, leather steering wheel and electric windows all round. SatNav is available on SE and EX 'Navi' versions.

For me the new Jazz is a winner in the space race, yet with only a minimal increase in exterior size it's no more difficult to handle around town or to park.

It may only have one engine option, but it's one that can rival many smaller, one-litre city cars for economy and tax efficiency so it's unlikely to harm the Jazz's heritage as one of Honda's most popular models.



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Stylish and a good drive

By Bob Hickman

The latest Clio is a curvaceous, sleek coupe style vehicle. It's the fourth generation and Renault has worked hard to ensure that the Clio retains its brand loyalty but also capitalises and gains more buyers in the hotly competitive super mini category.

You only need to glance at the Clio to see that it is stylish. Bright LED daytime running lights add emphasis and the hidden rear door handles make the vehicle look virtually coupe-like – disguising the fact that this is a five-door hatch.

The new Clio is both wider, longer and lower, with an extended wheelbase which translates to more interior space.

Thanks to clever engineering and new materials it is 100 kgs lighter than its predecessor and this relates to lower running costs.

Described as a super-mini, the Clio can accommodate five adults, although if like me they are six-footers they will struggle just a little bit for legroom.

The rear is reasonably big enough for the external size of the vehicle and the boot, whilst not over generous, has the ability to be extended if only driver and passenger are contained. There is also a 60/40 split facility.

It is over 22 years since Clios first arrived and with more than 11.5 million sold in over 115 countries, Renault has obviously got something right with this popular vehicle.

My Clio was equipped with a 1.5-litre diesel engine. This develops 90 bhp, sufficient to give a top speed where necessary

and legal, of 112 mph and a 0-60 gallop in marginally over 11 seconds.

One of the important figures is the CO2 emissions and at 90 g/km, this is in vehicle excise duty band A which means no vehicle excise licence.

Renault claim extraordinary figures of 78.5 mpg – the computer told me at the end of a week of very mixed mileage that I had achieved 57 miles to the gallon which I found to be perfectly acceptable in real world driving.

The 1.5 DCi performs adequately without being overly noisy, although there is no mistaking that it is diesel power under the bonnet.

Dynamics

The gearbox was notchy and fifth gear was not particularly comfortable at a speed of anything less than 40 mph.

I particularly liked the driving dynamics of the vehicle. The steering wheel was chunky and large, and didn't obscure the graphics which were contained in a binnacle in front of the driver and also in the centre console. My particular vehicle, the Media Nav, had an excellent system directly in front and to the left, regrettably as with most of these systems it did mean averting the eye on occasions to operate the touchscreen system.

One particular feature that I would like to highlight and found to be very, very useful were the cruise control and speed limiter buttons located in the central console just in front and below the handbrake. Move the switch forward and you could dial in a speed limit, click it backwards and it activated cruise control and then one button on the steering wheel to alter the speed.

In this day and age of speed cameras, it was an absolute boon. On motorways with



'New Clio not only looks great but is an excellent vehicle to drive and I am sure will continue to give new owners a welcome and rewarding experience.'

temporary restrictions you dial in the speed, and in and around town it is quite easy to dial in a speed and avoid those hefty penalties for exceeding the speed limit.

The Clio's ride and handling were one of a vehicle at ease within its own suit – it was compliant as you would expect, steering at all times was balanced and the car turned in and held its line perfectly on reasonably twisty B Class roads and had a degree of accuracy and poise which was a rewarding feature.

The new Clio not only looks great but

is an excellent vehicle to drive and I am sure will continue to give new owners a welcome and rewarding experience. It is cheap to run and with a distinct abhorrence of fuel stations with the 1.5-litre DCi I have little doubt that the new generation of Clio will add to the already 11.5 million owners that Renault have achieved in the previous 22 years.

My particular car had an on the road price of £16,595, a four-year 100,000 miles warranty, service intervals at 18,000 miles or one-year and in addition a four-year roadside cover is incorporated.



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Yeltz notch up their second win in a week

Halesowen 2 Skelmersdale 1
HALESOWEN got their second win in a week, beating Skelmersdale 2-1 at home to go ninth in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier table.

It was a good performance by John Hill's men, though Daniel Platt in goal had to make a number of saves.

After a slow opening, Halesowen took the lead on 14 minutes when Platt's headed clearance eventually found Keyon Reffel on the right.

He squared the ball to Aaron Daniels who turned and finished the move off beautifully.

Platt denied Jack Phillips twice and Kenny Strickland, but it was generally the Yeltz who were making most of the play during the game.

Skelmersdale worked hard looking for an equaliser in the second half, substitute Louis Corrigan went close but again Platt was in top form.

Halesowen increased their lead on 72 minutes when Reece Hales ran across the edge of the box and shot into the corner of the net.

Skelmersdale captain Robert McIntosh reduced the deficit with a fierce shot into the net four minutes from time but they couldn't force an equaliser.

But Yeltz held on and will host Mickleover for their next match.

Team: Platt; Connolly; Griffiths (Cooper 45); Denny (C); Elvins; Lewis; Charlton; Bragoli; Reffel (Gueyes 80); Daniels (Waite 74); Hales.

Subs not used: Morrison; Sargeant

Attendance: 303

Chinu grabs another title in wrestling

A wrestler who trained in Wolverhampton returned to his old stomping ground to win the British Championship Freestyle.

Chinu, who is 28 and lives in Oldbury is an Olympic freestyle wrestler and five-time English Champion.

Last weekend the athlete, who wrestles in the super heavyweight, 125 kg class, won the championship which was held at Aldersley Leisure Centre, Aldersley.

The 2014 Commonwealth Games bronze medallist faced two opponents in his weight class to come first. The first against J Kamen of Scotland who was runner-up and then K Boyal of Nottingham who came in third.

Chinu also won the British championship 2014 and this was his 8th British title.

TD have worst game possible

Team Dudley 0 Shenstone Pathfinders 5
TEAM Dudley's manager described his team's performance as the worst of his tenure (and club history).

TDgot their just deserts against Shenstone which left few in a red and black shirt with any credit.

The home side struggled to get going in wet conditions with manager Stewart Holmes making one change from last week's point at Wyrley.

Ryan Passey entered the midfield fray for Lee Clarke who was rested to the bench.

They should have taken the lead when Seb Finkle fired over inside the area but other efforts were partly held by Green from distance. Nathan Jones had another effort saved but the efforts within the TD camp were questionable as Shenstone wanted every single ball more than their opposition, they did the basics better and got their rewards just two minutes before the half time whistle.

If TD had gone in at 0-0 they'd have been a very lucky side so when Alex Leonard scored on 43 minutes it was more expected than anything.

A free kick was whipped in, Kyle Green punched the ball but it hit a Shenstone shin, fell to Leonard, the Shenstone captain, on the goal line to finish.

Then, on the stroke of half time it was 2-0, punishing a high line ball through the back four saw James Hawthorne beaten for pace, Finkle managed to get to the ball before the onrushing Kyle Green and the striker poked in .

Four minutes after the break TD lost their leader. James Hawthorne was forced off with injury and replaced by Lee Clarke pushing Ryan Passey in centre half.

On 58 minutes it was three as Finkle again netted for the visitors.

Joshua Haston made it 4-0 just two minutes later as he ran through and rounded Kyle Green to finish calmly.

Shenstone finished the scoring on 87 as Joshua Haston got his brace with a smart turn and finish past Kyle Green.

Hales squad were baying for blood

Old Halesonians 41 Sutton Coldfield 0
OLD Halesonians had something to prove following the first defeat of the season against Scunthorpe two weeks ago.

From the kick off Hales were on the front foot with strong forward play. The home scrummage was too strong for the visitors and this was a key theme throughout the game.

Early pressure gave a penalty to Hales which full back Chris Hooper slotted to take the lead.

The Sutton pack were mixing it physically and OH flanker Max McFarlane had to leave the field for blood treatment.

More forward pressure from OH with Tom King, Loz Breese, Tom Jordan and hooker Pete Fitzgerald leading the way was followed by another penalty which Hooper kicked.

McFarlane returned to strengthen the pack which completely dominated the set scrum.

On 27 minutes a scrum in the visitors 22 saw another backwards movement from Sutton resulting in a penalty try awarded, converted by Hooper. The home side, despite being in control, could not get into their usual stride.

Flowing

The backs through Dave Hadkiss at No.9 and Oli Rayner at No.10 could not get the back line flowing, although centres Ben Barkley and Andy Robinson showed potential with support from Carl Robinson and Luke Smith on the wings.

A pick up by No.8 Owen Jones led to a score which was converted by Hooper.

In the second half OH lowered to the opposition pace. Their defence was again excellent with Jordan putting in some crunching tackles with McFarlane, Breese and Carl Robinson.

One tackle by Jordan on the opposite second row was a turning point in the game.

The Sutton player gathered the ball and ran at the OH midfield. Jordan sat his man down in his usual manner with a full-on tackle and also stripped him of the ball.

This gave the home side the incentive they needed. Loz Breese was replaced by Jay Martin who brought some forward momentum.

Prop Louis Padian came on for Matt Young and Andy Holloway for Rayner.



Old Halesonian Owen Jones trying to make headway during the match. Pic Dan Corcoran.

On 60 minutes tHooper gathered the ball to sprint through the defence for a try which he converted.

Smith on the wing in space out sprinted the opposition for the bonus point try, converted by Hooper.

A forward drive forced a scrum collapse by the Sutton pack, the referee awarded a second penalty try. This was converted by Hooper for a personal points tally of 21 and a crucial win.

Lichfield 2nds 38 Old Halesonians 2nds 17

Old Hales struggled all afternoon to get their fair share of possession and when they did manage it they squandered it on many occasions.

OH scorers: Tries: Jake Harley-Yeadon, Luke Fenton (2)

Conversions: Luke Fenton

Old Halesonians 3rds 21 Worcester 3rds 12

OH scorers: Tries: Dan Sheasby, Dan Smith (2)

Conversions: Gaz Price (3)

Tipton pull out the draw with late strike

Tipton Town 1 Willenhall Town 1
A keenly fought local derby saw Willenhall take the lead near the end only to be pegged back by a game Tipton side well into injury time.

This result in itself was a triumph of sorts for the home club after an unenviable series of heavy losses.

Early pressure was put on the home goal and new keeper Sandip Bains punched the ball clear from Matt Dorgan's head following a threatening cross from the right flank.

Still calling the tune Willenhall may well have netted, home skipper, Danny Bellis denying them with a timely interception.

Poor defending by Tipton on 19 minutes should have been punished but Eddie Wilson's curling cross just evaded his colleagues.

In the 25th minute Willenhall were awarded a hotly disputed penalty and the keeper plunged full-length to turn the ball away for a corner kick.

Tipton were clearly gaining more in confidence as the game progressed and went near to breaking the deadlock on 32 minutes.

Jon Crawford's searching drive fully extending visiting keeper, Tim Patterson.

Tipton's hearts were seemingly broken in the 88th minute after avoiding yet another high scoring defeat when Carlin at last forced the ball home. 0-1

The home youngsters responded with vigour and in a do or die final effort equalised in the 92nd minute after poor defending by the visitors let in substitute Singh-Dosange to tie up the scores.

Dudley keep streak going with shutout

Bewdley 0 Dudley sports 2
DUDLEY Sports continued their good run with a hard-earned three points at Bewdley .

The game was played on a wet and sticky pitch making good football difficult .

An even first half ended goalless after both sides squandered chances.

Sports started to take control and were rewarded in the 60th minute when Tom Watkins finished off a fine move when shooting home from the edge of the box.

Bewdley tried to get back into the game but although having a lot of possession never had a single shot at goal.

Sports made sure of the three points when Sheppy ran clear to finish in style.

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Sport

Worst game ever for Team Dudley

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Old Hales went out for the win

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Pulis wants fans to make some noise

TONY PULIS has asked Albion fans to take a leaf out of Norwich's book and ramp up the noise for this Saturday's home game against Leicester.

With home form patchy and performances uninspiring supporters had very little to cheer about at The Hawthorns before the victory over Sunderland.

Boos have been heard inside the ground during the last two games, at the final whistle of the Everton match and at half-time against the Black Cats.

Now Albion have shot up into the top half, Pulis is hoping for more supportive noises from the fans.

But he knows his team have to play their part too.

"I just hope and pray that we get a full house and our supporters really get behind the lads, because it's so important," he said.

"We need to give them a performance to get behind us, but we need them behind us, and fingers crossed we can put in another performance like we did (against Norwich)."

Impressed by the Canaries' fans, the Welshman pointed out the influence loud home support can have on swinging tight games.

Carrow Road was jumping for the opening stages but Albion weathered the early storm before taking control of the game.

"If you heard their supporters, especially first 20 minutes, they were trying to suck the ball in the back of the net," said Pulis. "The crowd were absolutely fantastic for them."

There were no boos from the travelling Albion fans at Carrow Road, and after the game they belted out a rendition of "Pride of the Midlands, we know what we are."

With Leicester five places above, the Foxes may take issue with that.

Battling Tivs in a triple fightback to share the points

Loughborough Dynamo 3 Tivdale 3 TIVIDALE showed a different side to themselves with a steely display and a never say die attitude coming back three times.

All this despite receiving a spate of yellow cards and a straight red.

The home side took the lead in the 32nd minute when the dangerous Leandro Browne played in Luke Edwards and he fired home first time past Turner.

The lead lasted just two minutes when McCormack could only beat away a fierce Sam Adkins drive, but the ball fell kindly to the onrushing midfielder Malachi Farquharson who stabbed the ball home.

On 37 minutes Tivdale were reduced to 10 men when defender Jordan Cullinane-Liburd was shown a straight red.

By this time though Tivdale had three names in the book. From the resulting free kick Luke Edwards prodded home his and Dynamo's second. Tivdale were back on level terms in the 53rd minute when an Adkins corner was headed home by Sterling. Danny Edwards beat Turner.

Tivs equalised through Chris Sterling.

Expectations too high, says Lambert

FORMER boss Paul Lambert reckons expectation levels at Villa are too high – as the club's search for a new manager continues.

Frenchman Remi Garde remains favourite to replace Tim Sherwood, who was sacked on Sunday following a run of six straight defeats which has seen them fall to the foot of the Premier League.

Sherwood replaced Lambert in February when the club were in the relegation zone, successfully leading them to safety by the end of the season.

He then splashed more than £50million on 13 new players during the summer, the type of spending Lambert could only dream of during his

Football

two-and-a-half years at the helm.

And Lambert, who is yet to return to management since leaving Villa, believes the club need to get real.

"The expectancy level outweighs the realism at the club at the minute," he said. "It was very hard for me from day one, everyone knew that Randy (Lerner) wanted to sell the football club."

"The most I ever spent was on Christian Benteke, I spoke to some really top players but we just couldn't do it. The players I wanted to bring

to Villa were big players, I spoke to (Romelu) Lukaku and (Wilfried) Bony when I was there.

"That's what I had to work with, it's still a great club, but it should never be bottom of the Premier League."

Garde remains Villa's preferred candidate, though continued difficulties in prising the 49-year-old's desired backroom team of Gerard Baticle and Bruni Genesio away from Lyon, where both are currently employed, is forcing the claret and blues to keep their options open.

Kristian has golden shot in Glasgow

WOLVERHAMPTON'S Kristian Thomas warned Great Britain's rivals there is even more to come from the host nation in the men's team final at the World Gymnastics Championships in Glasgow.

Thomas and his team-mates set their qualifying benchmark on Sunday, but had to wait until Monday night to find out if they had finished in the top eight to qualify for the final – as well as the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Despite admitting they had achieved their initial goal, the 26-year-old Midlander wants more.

"Getting the team to Rio was the number one priority coming here and we're all delighted to have got the job done," said Thomas, who is joined in the team by Max Whitlock, Dan Purvis, Louis Smith, Nile Wilson and Brinn Bevan.

"Every member of the team contributed and we go into the team final knowing we have even more to offer to push for a medal."

Britain racked up an impressive 354.417 points on Sunday, a tally which was only bettered by Japan and China from the following qualifying heats.

That means they will start as one of the favourites for a medal, but will have to be wary of Russia, USA, Switzerland, Brazil and South Korea, who all finished within eight-and-a-half points of the Brits.

The team final will spell the end of these World Championships for Thomas though.

His 58.432 points from four of the six apparatus may have helped Britain into the final, but were nowhere near enough to qualify him for the all-round individual final.

He was ranked 19th in the vault and 20th on the floor, his best finishes, but required a top-eight place to reach the final.

Skipper Richards is charged by FA

VILLA skipper Micah Richards has been charged with improper conduct by the FA following an incident in the tunnel at the end of Saturday's 2-1 defeat to Swansea.

The Villa Park tunnel could be seen shaking from side to side, with Richards still angry after a clash with Federico Fernandez which happened earlier in the game.

Both of the players have escaped any sanctions because of the clash, after the FA reviewed video evidence of what happened on the day.

However, Richards had until 6pm on Thursday to respond to the charge.

★★★★

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LATE STRIKE DENIES YELTZ

Halesowen Town 1 Mickleover Sports 1 **HALESOWEN** dominated for much of the game but were denied a third consecutive victory after Mickleover equalised.

Prior to the game a one-minute silence was observed in remembrance of long-term supporter Peter Westwood.

Lively Aaron Daniels caught the visiting defence cold down the centre after just seven minutes but his final shot was saved by goalkeeper Joshua O'Brien.

Danny Bragoli's free-kick then caused danger in the opposition rearguard and Keyon Refell's shot was charged down in the good spell of pressure.

A free-kick from Reece Hales was pushed around the post by O'Brien and he was in action again when he raced out to head clear and thwart Daniels yet again after 23 minutes.

Refell met Bragoli's free-kick with a header, only for O'Brien to pluck the ball from the air, as the Yeltz continued to have much the better of the first half against out-of-form Mickleover.

Snapshot

Mickleover's only real first half threat came when a 26th minute snapshot from John McGrath was tipped away for a corner by home goalkeeper Dan Platt.

Halesowen finally took a deserved lead in the 36th minute when Hales used his strength to take control and played a superb defence-splitting pass into the penalty area for Daniels to tuck the ball past O'Brien.

Two minutes later a corner from Aaron Griffiths fell to Kyle Morrison on the edge of the area and his shot bobbed towards goal through a crowd of players before O'Brien was just able to react and save the day on his goal-line.

From the resulting 81st minute corner, Andy Dales levelled the scoreline by blasting home down the centre of goal through a crowded penalty area.

Increasingly confident Sports almost snatched a late winner but Platt saved from substitute Anthony O'Neill-Dwyer in the 85th minute before the same player drove wide in the final minute after picking up a long clearance.

Amber is hot on the cold stuff



Schoolgirl Amber Fennell shows off some of her trophies from snow boarding and skiing

A YOUNG Halesowen snowboarder and skier is whipping up a storm across the continent after claiming two impressive titles.

Eight-year-old Amber Fennell slalomed to success on her skis in Dublin to claim the Irish Open Championships and the European Championships in her under-10 age category.

The Hurst Green Primary School pupil started skiing when she was four, but only began snowboarding recently and has already made an impression on the board.

The recent Irish and European success is the top achievement to date for the youngster, who wants to follow in the snow trails of her very own idols. She competes in the under-10 age

category in skiing and under-12 in her snowboarding section.

Amber's supportive family and No.1 fans, mum Jenni and nan Dianne, get their own thrills from seeing their star chasing her passion. Dianne said: "I think she's raced 22 times and made the podium in 18 of them. It's been amazing."

"We had a great weekend in Dublin and for Amber to win them both topped it off."

But the ambitious youngster isn't ready to stop there. Despite remaining extremely grounded, she is keen to reach the very top.

Her grandmother said: "Her ambition is the Winter Olympics."

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